

A Fool's Parade Episode 1-2 "Bright Ideas"

By

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INT. KITCHEN - DAY

A montage. Cooper takes a large mixing bowl from the cabinet. He opens a package of Oreo's. He dumps the entire package in the bowl. He takes milk from the refrigerator. He pours the milk in the bowl. He takes a spoon from the drawer. He puts the spoon in the bowl.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Cooper sits on the couch and eats his "cereal." Paul walks in and takes a seat next to him.

COOPER

Want some breakfast? I made Oreo cereal.

PAUL

No. Thank you.

COOPER

You know what I always thought was a good idea? A restaurant that serves only cereal.

PAUL

That's a terrible idea. Nobody would go to a restaurant that serves only cereal.

COOPER

I think you're underestimating people's love for cereal.

PAUL

What are you watching?

COOPER

A show about this girl that was kidnapped and ended up falling in love with the guy that kidnapped her.

PAUL

Yeah, I've heard of that. It's called Stockholm Syndrome, right?

COOPER

Yeah, Stockholm Syndrome. I'm thinking about trying it.

(CONTINUED)

PAUL
Trying Stockholm Syndrome?

COOPER
Yeah.

PAUL
You're thinking about kidnapping a girl and hoping she falls in love with you?

COOPER
Yeah.

PAUL
Right. Got the girl picked out?

COOPER
Yeah, this girl Molly. She lives next door.

PAUL
Oh yeah, I saw her. She's cute.

COOPER
Yeah, she's really pretty.

PAUL
Cooper.

COOPER
Yeah?

PAUL
That's a stupid idea.

COOPER
Why?

PAUL
Kidnapping a girl and hoping she will fall in love with you is a bad idea.

COOPER
I don't think it's that bad.

PAUL
It's bad.

COOPER
Fine.

(CONTINUED)

PAUL
Cooper.

COOPER
What?

PAUL
Don't do it.

COOPER
I said fine.

Jake enters.

JAKE
Hey what are you guys talking
about?

PAUL
Cooper wants to kidnap the girl
next door.

JAKE
Oh not the Stockholm Syndrome thing
again.

PAUL
You've thought about this before?

COOPER
I really don't think it's a bad
idea.

JAKE
It's a bad idea.

PAUL
A really, really bad idea.

JAKE
I'm going to get something to eat.
Anybody want to come?

COOPER
Already ate.

PAUL
I'll come.

COOPER
Hey Jake, what do you think about a
restaurant that serves only cereal?

(CONTINUED)

JAKE
What's with you and all the
terrible ideas lately?

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Jake and Paul are sitting at a table eating.

PAUL
What are you doing tonight?

JAKE
Got a date.

PAUL
Let me guess, you lied about what
you did for a living.

JAKE
Of course.

PAUL
You are so pathetic.

JAKE
Why?

PAUL
Why? Seriously?

JAKE
You need to let loose man.

A man approaches.

MAN
Holy shit, Paul? Paul Henderson?

PAUL
Yeah?

MAN
It's Todd Simmons.

PAUL
Oh, hey Todd. It's been a long
time. This is my friend Jake.

(CONTINUED)

JAKE

Hello.

TODD

Hey, good to meet ya Jake.

PAUL

What are you up to these days?

TODD

I'm an investment banker. Married, two kids. I just built a new home out in Jupiter.

JAKE

Isn't that where Tiger Woods lives?

TODD

Yeah, and Michael Jordan. I'm actually playing golf with both of them next week.

JAKE

Wow, that's very impressive.

TODD

Yeah, I guess I'm doing alright for myself. How 'bout you Paul. What do you do?

JAKE

Yes, Paul. What do you do?

PAUL

I... own a restaurant.

TODD

Oh good for you. What kind?

PAUL

We serve only cereal. College kids just love it. It's very popular.

TODD

Huh, cereal. Well sounds great. I'll have to stop in sometime. Where is it?

PAUL

Um, it's downtown. On um Anderson.

(CONTINUED)

TODD

Well great, I'll try to stop by this weekend. Nice to meet you Jake.

JAKE

Yeah you too. Say hi to Jordan for me!

Todd walks off.

JAKE

Lying about what you do for a living. You are so pathetic.

PAUL

Shut up. I can't stand that guy.

JAKE

The cereal restaurant?

PAUL

It's all I could think of.

JAKE

What are you going to do if he stops by?

PAUL

I'm going to have to open a cereal restaurant.

JAKE

You're not serious.

PAUL

This guy was always one upping me when we were kids. Once, I opened a lemonade stand then he opened a Todd-Juice stand.

JAKE

Todd-Juice?

PAUL

Yeah, it was a three fruit blend of grapefruit, mango, and pomegranate.

JAKE

Sounds refreshing.

(CONTINUED)

PAUL
Yeah, it was. It was delicious
actually.

JAKE
How are you going to open a
restaurant in a few days.

PAUL
I've got some money saved up. It
can't be that hard. Tables, chairs,
bowls. And you'll help right?

JAKE
No way.

PAUL
Oh come on!

JAKE
Fine.

PAUL
Thanks. And let's not tell Cooper
about this.

CUT TO:

EXT. JAKE'S HOUSE - DAY

Jake and Paul walk to the front door.

PAUL
Just let me change clothes and we
can go look for places to rent.

A cop approaches.

COP
Excuse me?

JAKE
Yeah?

COP
Hi. We're investigating a
disappearance of the girl that
lives next door to you.

PAUL
Molly?

(CONTINUED)

COP

Yes, that's right. Have you seen her recently?

PAUL

No.

COP

Well she disappeared sometime this morning. Her roommate said she went to bed early last night and when she woke up this morning she was gone. One of her windows was broken and there were some signs of a struggle.

JAKE

You think she was kidnapped?

COP

Looks that way. If you hear anything, please let me know.

The cop hands Paul his card.

PAUL

Yeah, sure. No problem.

The cop walks off.

PAUL

You don't think.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Cooper sits on the couch reading from a very large Bible. Jake and Paul walk in.

PAUL

Cooper, there's a cop outside. He asked me if I've seen that Molly girl that lives next door. He says she's missing. Cooper, you didn't, did you?

COOPER

What? No!

(CONTINUED)

PAUL
Cooper? This is serious.

COOPER
I would never actually do that.

PAUL
Are you reading the Bible?

COOPER
No, a Playboy. I put it inside an
over sized bible. I feel they
cancel each other out and I don't
feel as bad about it.

Cooper pulls the Playboy out from inside the Bible.

PAUL
Right. So just to be clear, that's
a no on Molly, right?

COOPER
I said no.

PAUL
OK, OK. I'm going to get changed.
Meet you outside Jake.

JAKE
OK.

COOPER
Where are you guys going?

JAKE
To get some coffee. Paul wants to
discuss his failed engagement.
Right, Paul?

PAUL
Yeah. Right.

COOPER
Gay.

Paul walks out.

JAKE
OK, he's gone. Did you?

COOPER
No!

CUT TO:

INT. ABANDONED RESTAURANT - DAY

Paul and Jake walk into the restaurant with the owner. The place is old and run down.

OWNER

It will need some cleaning but the rent is cheap for the location.

JAKE

I feel like I've been here before. What was this place before?

OWNER

A juice bar.

JAKE

Never been to a juice bar.

OWNER

Ever since it closed, kids just break in here to have sex.

JAKE

OK, yeah. That's it. I knew I'd been here.

PAUL

It's perfect.

JAKE

Are you sure? Seems kinda seedy.

PAUL

No, it just needs to be cleaned up a little. We'll take it!

OWNER.

Great! What kind of business are you going to open?

PAUL

A restaurant that serves only cereal.

OWNER

That's a terrible idea.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Paul and Jake walk into the kitchen.

PAUL
I can't believe we're actually
doing this.

JAKE
I know, pretty crazy.

PAUL
Got time for a beer before your
date?

JAKE
Yeah.

Paul gets two beers from the refrigerator, hands one to
Jake.

PAUL
What are you guys doing?

JAKE
Going to a show. Probably taking
her to the restaurant after. I
doubt it will be as much fun since
I have a key now.

PAUL
Gross.

Cooper enters and walks to the kitchen. Silently, he gathers
a large amount of food and walks back to his room. Jake and
Paul give each other a confused look then shrug it off and
go back to drinking beer. A moment later, Cooper returns to
gather more food.

JAKE
What are you doing Coop?

COOPER
Just getting some food.

Cooper walks back to his room.

JAKE
What the hell was that about?

PAUL
You don't think?

(CONTINUED)

JAKE

What?

PAUL

Molly?

JAKE

No. He wouldn't. Would he?

Jake and Paul stare at each other for a moment then break for Cooper's room.

CUT TO:

INT. OUTSIDE COOPER'S ROOM

Jake and Paul stand outside Cooper's room. The door is shut.

JAKE

What are we going to do if she's in there.

PAUL

I don't know. Do you think she is?

JAKE

I don't know. Cooper's done some pretty stupid things before.

PAUL

This stupid?

JAKE

Why would he need all that food?
And why would he take it back to his room?

PAUL

I don't know. Oh shit, she's in there, isn't she?

JAKE

I don't know.

PAUL

Maybe we could just tell her it was a joke.

JAKE

She's being held against her will by a man child. That's not a joke.

(CONTINUED)

PAUL

Well if she is in there, he's probably got her pretty drugged up. We could just try to convince her this is a dream.

JAKE

Yeah that's not bad. I think I've had that dream. Let's just see if she's even in there first.

PAUL

OK.

Jake reaches for the door knob and slowly opens the door. The room is filled with smoke. Cooper is sitting on the floor eating.

JAKE

Thank God, he's just stoned. Alright, I'm going out. I'll see you later.

Jake exits. Paul shakes his head at Cooper.

INT.COOPERS BEDROOM - NIGHT

C.U. of Cooper's face. He is sound asleep. Moans and heavy breathing can be heard. Cooper slowly wakes up and rolls over. He sees Jake on top of a girl. He sits up quickly and freaks out!

COOPER

What? What are you doing?

JAKE

Oh, hey man.

COOPER

What are you doing in my bed?

JAKE

Your bed?

Jake looks around the room.

JAKE

Oh yeah. I guess it is. Sorry, we got really drunk earlier. This is Ashley. I did think it was really strange that you were sleeping in my bed.

(CONTINUED)

COOPER

Hi Ashley. Why would you not wake me up if you thought it was your bed?

JAKE

I didn't want to be rude.

COOPER

Next time, be rude!

JAKE

Ok, fine. Go back to sleep. We'll try to keep it down.

Jake goes back to kissing the girl.

COOPER

Jake! Get out!

JAKE

Alright. Alright. Come on Ashley.

Jake and Ashley get up.

ASHLEY

It was nice meeting you.

COOPER

Yeah you too. Close the door.

We hear the door close. Cooper lays back down, sighs and closes his eyes. A moment passes.

PAUL (OS)

Jake, get out of my room! What is wrong with you?!

COOPER (LAUGHING)

It's funny when it's not happening to you.

CUT TO:

EXT. BOWLS - DAY

A man on a ladder is hanging a banner that says Bowls with a picture of a cereal bowl. Paul watches.

PAUL

Just a little higher. Perfect.

CUT TO:

INT. BOWLS - DAY

Paul walks in. The place is starting to look like a restaurant. Jake is cleaning out a closet.

PAUL
How's it coming?

JAKE
I found a dead raccoon.

PAUL
What?

Jake stares toward the back of the closet. Paul walks over.

PAUL
Jesus, it's huge.

JAKE
I think we should keep it. It can
be our mascot.

PAUL
No way. The health inspector is
coming by this afternoon.

JAKE
Fine.

PAUL
I'm going to buy supplies. What all
do we need?

JAKE
Let's see. Milk and cereal.

PAUL
Yeah that's what I have too. OK,
I'll be back.

CUT TO:

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Paul pushes a cart filled with cereal boxes down the aisle.
He sees Cooper at the end of the aisle.

PAUL
Hey, man. What are you doing?

(CONTINUED)

COOPER
Just buying some supplies.

Paul looks in Cooper's cart. It's filled with Women's magazines, hair dye, and other suspicious goods.

PAUL
For what?

COOPER
For...whatever I want. What are you buying all of that cereal for?

PAUL
I... it's on sale. Gotta go.

COOPER
Yeah me too.

They hurriedly walk in opposite directions.

INT. Bowls - Day

Paul and Jake stand behind the counter.

JAKE
I can't believe we actually pulled this off.

PAUL
Me neither. Thanks for all of your help.

JAKE
Of course. What are friends for?

Todd enters.

TODD
Wow, this place is great!

PAUL
Hey Todd. Can I get you a bowl?

TODD
Yeah, I'll have corn flakes.

Paul makes a bowl of cereal and hands it to Todd. Todd hands Paul a credit card.

PAUL
Oh no, it's on me Todd.

(CONTINUED)

TODD
No, no, I insist.

PAUL
Alright.

Paul slides the card.

PAUL
Alright, you're all set. Enjoy the cereal Todd.

TODD
You know, I'll be honest. I thought this cereal restaurant idea was pretty dumb when you told me about it. I kind of thought you were lying to me. But, it's actually pretty cool. Maybe I'll talk to some of my investors about franchising.

PAUL
Thanks, Todd.

Todd takes the bowl and walks off.

PAUL
What an ass hole.

JAKE
What?

PAUL
Maybe I'll talk to some of my investors about franchising? He always has to one up me. I hate that guy.

JAKE
I think he's charming.

PAUL
Shut up, Jake.

Cooper walks in.

PAUL
Uh oh.

JAKE
Hey man, what are you doing here?

(CONTINUED)

COOPER
Everyone I deal to is talking about
this place.

PAUL
Really?

COOPER
Yeah. Stoners love cereal. Why did
you think I wanted to open a place
like this?

PAUL
Never really thought of it like
that.

COOPER
You guys work here?

JAKE
Actually, Paul and I own it. We're
really sorry we stole your idea.

PAUL
Yeah, it was a really good idea
Cooper. We're sorry.

COOPER
It's cool.

PAUL
It is?

COOPER
Yeah, my dream of owning a cereal
restaurant has come true and I
didn't have to do any of the work.
You are going to let me be part
owner, right?

PAUL
Um... yeah... sure.

JAKE
You can be head chef.

COOPER
Yeah. Head chef. I like that.

A girl walks in and.

(CONTINUED)

GIRL

Are you ready, Cooper?

COOPER

Oh yeah. Guys this is Molly. Molly
this is Jake and Paul.

MOLLY

Nice to meet you.

PAUL

Yeah you too.

JAKE

Hello.

COOPER

Alright. I'll see you guys later.

Cooper and Molly leave.

JAKE

You don't think.

Pan down to the carton of milk on the counter. A missing
person ad is on the side. It is a picture of Molly.

PAUL

Nah. He wouldn't. Would he?

Cut to credits.