

STEPHEN'S LIST

Created by Michael L. Ricketson

Episode #1 - "Pilot"

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ACT ONE

EXT. BILLY'S GROCERY STORE - DAY

STEPHEN FORTIER (16) lanky and well-dressed, looks at the "help wanted" sign, takes a deep breath, grabs the handle and looks at his mother, FAYE FORTIER (47), waiting in the car.

FAYE

You've got this, baby.

She gives a thumbs up and giant smile. Mitchell Tucker (16), Stephen's redheaded cousin, gives two thumbs up from the back seat window, smiling from ear to ear.

MITCHELL

You can do it!

Stephen smiles, opens the door and enters.

INT. BILLY'S GROCERY STORE

Stephen walks to the customer service counter and hands his application to the owner, BILLY (60's), a heavysset white-haired man wearing an apron.

BILLY

What can I do for you, young man?

STEPHEN

I'd like to apply for the bag-boy position you have.

Billy studies him over the top of his glasses.

BILLY

What's wrong with your lips?

STEPHEN

What?

BILLY

Your lips. Looks like you been suckin' on a grape lollipop.

STEPHEN

I, uh... I have a heart defect. It messes up blood flow so my lips are sometimes purple.

BILLY

A heart defect? And you think you can be a bag-boy? I don't know.

STEPHEN

I can do it. I swear. All I'm asking for is a chance.

BILLY

I don't know. I can't exactly have some sick kid die on me in the middle of the store.

STEPHEN

I'm not sick and that isn't going to happen.

BILLY

Well, let me think about it, kid.

STEPHEN

Thanks. My number's on the application.

Stephen heads for the exit. Tears well up. He stops at the door, turns and looks at Billy who is helping a customer. He leaves as a tear falls down his cheek.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. STEPHEN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Stephen, Faye, Mitchell, and MARY TUCKER (39) sit around the dinner table quietly. Stephen plays with food on his plate ignoring everyone. Faye and Mitchell glance at each other.

FAYE

So, do you wanna talk about it yet?

Stephen only shakes his head. Mitchell glances at Faye. She tilts her head looking at Mitchell and nods toward Stephen.

MITCHELL

C'mon, man. It couldn't have been that bad, could it?

MARY

Something will come along. You just have to keep at it.

Stephen slams his fists on the table and stands.

STEPHEN

You guys just don't get it!

He sits back down hard. Tears well up in his eyes.

STEPHEN (CONT'D)

It's like everyone stares at me. They look at me like I'm contagious or something.

FAYE

Honey, we've talked about this. People don't mean --

STEPHEN

-- It doesn't matter if they don't mean to! They do it and it pisses me off! It hurts.

Stephen grabs a napkin and wipes away tears. Faye stares at him with sadness only a mother can have for a hurting child.

INT. STEPHEN'S HOUSE - STEPHEN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Stephen sits at his desk. Mitchell sits behind Stephen's drum set in the corner

MITCHELL

So, is getting a job the first thing on your list?

STEPHEN

No, but it's the most important one. I need a job if I'm gonna get a car.

MITCHELL

A car! No way in hell your mom is gonna let you get a car. What else is on your list?

Stephen opens a drawer and pulls out a notebook. He and Mitchell move to the bed and sit down. Stephen hands Mitchell the notebook open to the first page. Mitchell reads.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

Job, car, march in the marching band, a date with a girl... sex? Well, you gotta aim high.

STEPHEN

Yeah. I also want to graduate high school.

MITCHELL

So, this is like a bucket list? Like that movie?

STEPHEN

Not really. It's just stuff I want to accomplish before I die.

Mitchell gives him a quizzical look.

STEPHEN (CONT'D)

You already know I've lived longer than the doctors predicted. I just want to experience the things normal teenagers do.

MITCHELL

But you're doing great. At least that's what they said at your last doctor appointment, right?

STEPHEN

It doesn't matter. Things can get bad real fast without any warning.

Stephen looks out the window. Mitchell grabs his shoulder and gives it a few squeezes.

MITCHELL
You know what?

STEPHEN
What?

MITCHELL
Screw that old man! You should go
down there and demand he hire you.

STEPHEN
That's not how it works.

MITCHELL
Screw that shit. We'll go back
tomorrow and get you that job.

STEPHEN
How?

MITCHELL
I don't know. We'll make a scene.
Shame him into giving you a job.
You've got a list and you ain't
taking no prisoners!

Stephen smiles big.

STEPHEN
Lets do it!

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. BILLY'S GROCERY STORE - DAY

Stephen and Mitchell stand next to the front door watching Billy behind the customer service counter. They wait until the line is clear and approach the desk.

BILLY

What can I do for you boys?

STEPHEN

Since I haven't heard from you I thought I would stop back by and ask you about the bag-boy position again.

Billy rocks from side to side and rearranges papers on the counter.

BILLY

Look, son, I'm just not really sure you're right for the job.

Several customers get in line behind Stephen and Mitchell.

STEPHEN

Why?

BILLY

Well, I, uhh, look, it's jus --

MITCHELL

-- It's because he has heart condition, isn't it.

And ELDERLY LADY in the line gasps. Billy looks at her.

STEPHEN

My heart defect won't keep me from doing the job, Mr. ...

BILLY

Billy, just call me Billy.

STEPHEN

Billy, it's something I've lived with all my life. Yeah, I have bad days, doesn't everybody?

ELDERLY LADY

He's got you there, Billy.

Billy flashes her an irritated glance. He shifts his feet.

BILLY

Look, son, it's just that I'm not sure you could handle it. I mean, you're so skinny and all. You may not be able to lift some things.

MITCHELL

C'mon, man. Billy. Look, he plays the drums like a monster. Have you ever played the drums, Billy?

BILLY

No.

MITCHELL

Well, it ain't as easy as it looks.

Billy glances at the line of people growing behind the boys and then directly at Stephen.

BILLY

Is that true? You play the drums?

STEPHEN

Yes, sir. I even play in the band at school.

Billy rubs the back of his neck and head.

BILLY

I don't know.

ELDERLY LADY

Hi-re him! Hi-re him!

She raises her fist in the air and waves at the others in line to join in on her chant.

VOICES IN LINE

Hi-re him! Hi-re him! Hi-re him! Hi-re him!

Billy waves his hands in the air.

BILLY

Alright, alright! Be here at 9 A.M. tomorrow morning.

Stephen and Mitchell smile wide.

STEPHEN

I got the job?

BILLY
You got the job.

The crowd in the line cheers. They high-five Stephen as he heads to the door. Stephen turns around at the door, smiling.

STEPHEN
Thank you, Billy!

Billy waves at Stephen. Stephen and Mitchell exit the store.

END OF ACT THREE

END OF EPISODE