

THE GANG GETS EDUCATED

Written by

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SPLASH SCREEN

Wednesday 11AM

INT PADDY'S PUB - DAY

Charlie and Mac sit at the bar, Dee is behind cleaning.

CHARLIE

That's incredible. Why haven't I heard of this before?

DEE

You haven't heard of this before because that's not what it is, Charlie. They're two totally different meanings!

CHARLIE

Dee. Dee, Dee, Dee. Are you listening to yourself? Come on!

DEE

Charlie, they are different words!

CHARLIE

Psh.

Dennis walks in through front door.

DENNIS

Heyo! What's going on?

DEE

Charlie is being ridiculous

CHARLIE

How am I - you told me - Dennis, Dee just told me that I could KILL SOMEONE and, what is, live for free somewhere else?

DEE

No Charlie, that is not at all what I said.

CHARLIE

Ok, I guess I don't have to kill them, but it's pretty likely.

DEE

It's not pretty likely. It would never happen. It's not a thing. Oh my god.

CHARLIE

Then why are you saying it?

Mac gestures from Dee to Dennis and explains.

MAC

Dee here has decided to tell Charlie that she knows someone who has dual citizenship.

DENNIS

Dual citizenship?

Other three nod vigorously.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

That's fine. There should be no confusion about that. How could that possible -

Charlie makes gun shape with fingers, smiles, shrugs.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Oh. Oh I see. Ok, no. That's not even close.

Dennis looks to Dee, who confirms, who then looks to Charlie who gestures it is unbelievable and cool.

MAC

It's been a sticking point for a little bit now.

Charlie raises hands in confusion and opens his mouth.

DEE

No Charlie, it's not up for debate. There is a man - he is in my class. He is Canadian. He is also American.

DENNIS

Hm, why are you still doing that?

DEE

What?

DENNIS

Acting. At this point you have to be WAY outside of the age range for those classes. Any class really.

Dee scoffs, offended.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

It's nothing new, Dee. You should really be aware of this by now.

FRANK

I've been trying to stop this her entire life, but she just keeps trying. You think she'd learn, but then again, she can't learn acting either.

Dee looks at Frank angrily.

DEE

Frank, you don't learn acting. It's natural.

FRANK

There should be a class for just accepting things, if you want to take a class so badly

Charlie raises hand again.

DENNIS

Charlie, let it go.

DEE

Can we just -

DENNIS

You should all just stop this right now. Charlie, dual citizenship means there are two of them - two citizenships -, not that they dueled to get to that point.

Charlie scoffs. Mac opens his mouth.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

And no Mac, *even if there were* such a thing as dueling for dual citizenship -

Dennis pauses with a disbelieving look.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
- you would not have it.

MAC
I would!

DENNIS
No Mac, you wouldn't. And Dee?
Stop.

DEE
Stop what?!

DENNIS
Just everything. Please. For all
our sake. I can't believe you let
it get this far.

Frank nods in agreement. Dee is shocked. Dennis pauses, looks around.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
You know what, this needs to
change. We're going to need to
start from the very beginning: you
guys need to get educated. Come on,
we're going out.

Gang packs up and walks out of the front door. A second later, Charlie runs back in by himself and looks behind the bar.

CHARLIE
Come on, where is it....

Rummages around some more before standing up and pausing.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Really? Didn't we have a gun in
here somewhere? Oh well.

Charlie leaves.

INTRO TO SHOW

Credits/Intro: The Gang Gets Educated

EXT. DOWNTOWN PHILADELPHIA - DAY

Gang is walkign down the street

MAC

I think we can agree that if "dual citizenship" were what Charlie thinks it is - which it is not, that I would have one. Obviously. But it's not what he think it is, and so I don't.

Dennis and Charlie at the same time

CHARLIE

How is it not?

DENNIS

That's not obvious at all.

Mac scoffs.

MAC

Look at me.

DENNIS

I am. That is exactly how I know this. There is no way you win any duel.

MAC

Assume it was pure raw strength. Manliness counts too, Dennis. Don't forget that counts.

DENNIS

Taking all that into account - and I'm being generous - you would probably not be a citizen of anywhere. You would be stateless.

MAC

What?! How could you say that!
Look!

Mac flexes, pulls shirt up.

CHARLIE

Are we acknowledging that he will be trying out for dual citizenship?

DEE

No Charlie, that's not what's happening.

CHARLIE

Ok, that's good. Where is the gun?

DEE

What?!

CHARLIE

When we left, I doubled back into
the bar for the gun.

Gang all gasps.

DENNIS

Oh my god.

DEE

No!

FRANK

This is not good

CHARLIE

Oh don't worry, I didn't find it.

Gang sighs in relief.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I am thinking though that if we
have time, we go get another? I
mean, that thing was super useful.

All yell out "No" at the same time.

DENNIS

Ok, we're here. Finally.

CHARLIE

A, uh, a... uh, lie... li... Well
there are definitely some numbers
over there, I got those. Address of
something.

DEE

A library! The Philadelphia Public
Library! How can you not read that?

MAC

That is ironic. Is he even going to
be allowed in?

DENNIS

Let's go in, you guys are
embarrassing me. People can see us
out here.

INT. PHILADELPHIA LIBRARY - DAY

Gang enters, looking around in awe.

DENNIS

Now as much as I hate - hate - to spend my time in a place like this and with you people when I could be doing, well, anything, I think it's pretty important that you understand how little you understand.

DEE

Really looking out for us, huh?

DENNIS

Appreciate it, will you?

CHARLIE

How - exactly - are we going to learn to fight in here? Are we throwing these?

Charlie picks up book.

DEE

You know what, forget reading. Do you even know what a library is?

Librarian next to gang shushes them. Gang glares back and keeps talking.

DEE (CONT'D)

You brought us to a library? What could possibly make you think this was a good idea? Dennis, we know how to go to a library.

DENNIS

Then you should have taken advantage of it before it got to this point.

DEE

Seriously?

DENNIS

Do you even REMEMBER the conversation I walked in on?

MAC

Ok fair point, but what are WE going to do here?

DENNIS

You're going to read a book, Mac.
Any book. Jesus Christ. When is the
last time any of you read a book?
Went out and supported your local
library?

MAC

To be fair, I don't like to read.

DEE

When was the last time you did,
Dennis?

Gang pauses, looks at Dennis.

DENNIS

That's not the point here.

FRANK

I disagree. You dragged us out of
the bar on a terrible day for this?

DENNIS

Frank, it's 80 and sunny out!

FRANK

Exactly!

DENNIS

Fine. Fine! I'll get something too.
We'll all get something to read.
We'll ALL read.

CHARLIE

Where are the -

DENNIS

You better not ask about books on
dueling. I swear to God. I swear to
God, Charlie.

Charlie opens his mouth.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Or guns.

Librarian shushes again. Charlie pauses, self concious.

CHARLIE

I wasn't going to.

DENNIS

Fine. Let's- let's do this. Just go find something to read. Charlie, I don't know, go find a picture book.

CHARLIE

I can read, Dennis!

DENNIS

Fine! Oh my God, what was I thinking.

Gang separates and goes to look for books.

INT PHILADELPHIA LIBRARY - FITNESS SECTION

Mac is flipping through a large photo book of muscular men. Dennis walks up. Mac is twirling a pen between his hands and mouth.

DENNIS

Hey buddy, my literary friend, how's the - whoa, what are you doing?

MAC

Huh, oh this? Check it out. This book is loaded with some pretty beefy hunks. Who'd have guessed this was here? I think I've got this though, some of these guys have no right being in this book.

DENNIS

What? What do you mean?

MAC

Compared to me! I mean, look at his forearms - right, he's got the tan, but it's too glossy - and then I've got -

Mac flexes for Dennis

MAC (CONT'D)

See what I'm saying with this? He shouldn't be here.

DENNIS

Mac, he is perfectly able to be in that book. If you really wanted to get to brass tacks about who would be in that book, it would be me.

(MORE)

DENNIS (CONT'D)

You don't have the definition I have and frankly, even when you had the mass - in case you forget - it wasn't this kind of mass.

MAC

Dennis, you most certainly don't have the ability to be in this book. I mean this guy - see this guy?

Presents page to Dennis, who slightly recoils.

DENNIS

Jesus, is he even wearing anything.

MAC

Yeah, it' right there.

DENNIS

How could I miss that?

MAC

And two, you are completely misconstruing my mass. I gained on purpose and just because you didn't like how much stronger than you I was doesn't mean you have to say this now.

DENNIS

Mac, you weren't strong, you were fat.

MAC

I was not. It was mass!

DENNIS

I know! It was fat mass! You were a massive fat mass!

MAC

Muscle mass!

DENNIS

No it wasn't. What is this, what are you reading anyways?

Mac closes book and shows cover.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

... "Homo Ludens?" You're reading "Homo Ludens." Of all the books in all the library.

MAC

Yeah, it means "Man of Sport."
Right up my alley, right? Should be
"Badass Man of Sport" though. Haha,
then I could be in it.

DENNIS

How do you know that's what it
means?

MAC

We're in a library Dennis, I looked
it up.

DENNIS

So... so you didn't know before you
picked it up.

MAC

... no.

Pause.

DENNIS

Ok then.

Another pause.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Did you bring that pen?

MAC

This?

DENNIS

Yes Mac, the pen in your mouth.
Please tell me you brought it with
you.

MAC

No, I found it over there on the
table. I was planning on taking
notes. This book has to have
something to offer me.

DENNIS

Well, I think you've taken enough
notes, let's go.

MAC

So I'm going to take this with me
though?

DENNIS

Fine! I don't care! You're not going to learn anything from it.

MAC

I beg to differ.

INT PHILADELPHIA LIBRARY - LAW SECTION

Charlie and Dee are walking together down an aisle and Charlie points to a section label.

CHARLIE

Law. See Dee, I got this. Law books. For lawyers.

DEE

Oh my god, it's three letters.

CHARLIE

That's - gosh, don't act like it's that easy, there are so many letters it's hard to keep track of them all.

DEE

There are twenty six letters.

CHARLIE

Twenty six, huh?

DEE

Yes Charlie, twenty six. How do you not know that?

Charlie stares at Dee for a second then turns back to the shelf.

CHARLIE

Law? Ok yeah, law.

Charlie pauses and reaches in for a book.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I should try to stay more up to date on bird law. When you realize just how quickly these situations can change and not just because of the speed of the birds...

Charlie thumbs throughout the book for a minute.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You would think there'd be more pictures.

DEE

Charlie, they are not going to have pictures. These books are for people that can read.

CHARLIE

I can read! I can read, I just believe that such an important field should be have more pictures for - in order to be used - to help the judges and juries of the world to determine what needs to be -

DEE

You know what, it's ok. You keep looking. I'm going somewhere else.

Dee leaves.

CHARLIE

It's to identify the birds, Dee.

INT PHILADELPHIA LIBRARY - SECTION

Frank is going through a large copy version of the Kama Sutra, and furiously taking notes in a separate notepad. Charlie walks around the corner, holding a large leatherbound book.

CHARLIE

Hey man, what are you doing there?

FRANK

Oh man Charlie, I should have found this a long time ago! All this time, I thought I was being creative, but look!

Shows charlie open page.

FRANK (CONT'D)

You see? These guys have been doing it for thousands of years! I gotta cross reference this stuff. Whoa. I have to start stretching.

CHARLIE

Wow, Frank. Wow. That lady is, phew.

Charlie takes book, holds up, moves it at an angle.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

This is great, but do they have any where the lady looks different?

FRANK

What do you mean?

CHARLIE

I mean, give her blonde hair, maybe short blonde hair. I could definitely learn that. Those are books I'd learn.

FRANK

You can learn it by looking at the picture. You don't need to change it. This is something to just show you the position. Charlie, are you looking for porn. Because you're describing porn.

CHARLIE

I am not! I think it would be easier to understand if they just changed this a little - just make her a different color.

Mac and Dennis come around the corner, Mac holding the previous book.

DENNIS

Sounds like we found some racists.

MAC

What are you guys looking at?

FRANK

Well, Charlie's trying to make his own porn over here.

MAC

Good man. Waste not, want not.

CHARLIE

I am not!

Dennis leans in and squints.

DENNIS

Well at least this one has women in it. That's encouraging.

Mac glares.

FRANK

Charlie, put that back, you're making us uncomfortable.

CHARLIE

I am not!

MAC

Charlie, you're biting your lip. I'm pretty sure your eyes are glazing over.

CHARLIE

No wonder no one comes to libraries with their friends.

Charlie puts book back. Frank gestures to Charlie's book.

FRANK

What are you taking out?

CHARLIE

Oh this? Got to stay on top of my game. Latest in bird law legislation.

DENNIS

Let me see that.

Dennis snatches book from Charlie.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Charlie, this says "Bank Law." This does not say "Bird Law."

CHARLIE

That is unsubstantiated.

DENNIS

You can't say it is unsubstantiated. That is literally what it says. Do you know what unsubstantiated means?

MAC

I mean, it's right there, dude. The first word. Of two.

CHARLIE

Well I'm sure birds do banking as well. Ex post facto, it is a bird book.

FRANK
Wrong phrase, Charlie.

DENNIS
No they don't - actually? Actually
this is a waste of time. We need to
go home. Where the hell is Dee? Can
we go now?

FRANK
It's your fault we're here anyways.

Group walks off, Frank grabs the Kama Sutra back off the
shelf.

INT PHILADELPHIA LIBRARY - SELF HELP SECTION

Dee is by herself, dramatically gesturing to herself. As
she's doing this, the gang appears behind her and she does
not notice. They stand and watch for one second.

MAC
Please tell me this isn't what I
think it is.

Dee spins around startled.

DEE
What are you guys doing here? Why
aren't you looking for your books?!

MAC
We have our books.

Mac holds up his book as proof. Dee recoils.

DEE
God damn, Mac.

DENNIS
Do you have to whip it out like
that at every chance?

MAC
What are you doing, Dee?

DEE
Me?

Dee hurriedly puts book back on shelf

(MORE)

DEE (CONT'D)

I was just, uh, I was just going through this section and, uh, I saw this... it's really going to help me out.

FRANK

What is that? Is that a self help book? For actors?

DEE

It is and I'll have you know that it has a section specifically for those who have experienced the world and are ready to put it on stage.

DENNIS

You're not going to do any of that Dee. It's too late. You're done. Let it go.

Gang turns and walks out of aisle.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Ok, so as a whole, I'm going to say this was a wash. Can we go now?

ALL

Yeah, I'm going, let's go.

Gang begins walking to checkout area.

CHARLIE

Whoa, whoaaaa, look at this?

Charlie holds up dinosaur book.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

These are badass! Oh man, I haven't seen stuff like this since I was a kid.

MAC

Oh yeah, look at the muscles on that thing.

DEE

That's what you take away from that book?

MAC

Compare these.

Mac puts the sports book and the dinosaur book next to each other.

CHARLIE

Well I think we can agree they are both very muscular.

MAC

Right?

DEE

You guys are retarded.

MAC

Charlie, you think I could be in this book right?

CHARLIE

Oh yeah, definitely. Look at your definition, it's like totally the same!

MAC

See Dennis!

DENNIS

Ok, you know what? This was a mistake can we go? Mac, you can be in whatever book you want to be in.

MAC

I know I can.

DENNIS

Fine, let's go.

INT PHILADELPHIA LIBRARY - CHECKOUT DESK

Gang has all their books and deposits them on the counter at the front.

DENNIS

These guys would like to check out some knowledge please.

LIBRARIAN

Ok. Do you have your membership cards?

DENNIS

Um, and what would we need those for?

MAC

This isn't a communist country.

CHARLIE

Though, to her point, if we dueled for citizenship, it could be.

MAC

You are going further and further away from the correct understanding of that concept.

DEE

That's not the concept! Oh my god, that's more wrong than it was before.

CHARLIE

Whatever, Dee.

Points to children's brochure.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

What's that?

DENNIS

What's what?

CHARLIE

This place. Where is this?

DENNIS

That is a children's museum, Charlie.

FRANK

Jesus.

CHARLIE

... well, it looks better than this place.

DENNIS

Better how?!

CHARLIE

They're at least having fun.

Charlie gets stared down. Dennis turns to desk.

DENNIS

I am here as an educator. Do you really want to put such a burden on your educators? Bringing up the future learners

Dennis looks at Dee

DENNIS (CONT'D)

And those from the past.

LIBRARIAN

We require everyone to have a card. Educators or not.

DEE

Well I'm certainly not paying for these books.

LIBRARIAN

You don't have to pay.

DEE

Or signing my name. Or anything.

FRANK

I've got my notes!

Mac looks hesitant.

MAC

Well, I think that...

DENNIS

Mac, forget it.

Mac look upset.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Look, just take the pen.

LIBRARIAN

You can't take a library pen, sir.

DENNIS

Oh my God!

CHARLIE

This is a communist country!

DEE

I won't stand for that.

FRANK

Me neither.

CHARLIE

Would dueling change that?

DENNIS

Ok, you know what? Let's go. This was a big mistake.

Gang leaves library.

EXT PHILADELPHIA LIBRARY - DAY

CHARLIE

I mean, that was ok, Dennis. But I don't think you made your point. You're still wrong about dueling.

DEE

We made plenty of points. I don't think we CAN be wrong about that.

FRANK

Yeah Charlie, I think you're just going to have to go with us on this one.

CHARLIE

Oh come on, you too?

FRANK

Sure, you made some pretty convincing points, you made some good points.

DEE

He didn't make any points!

Charlie starts to respond but suddenly freezes open mouthed and points.

CHARLIE

Guys. Guys why didn't we go here?!

DENNIS

You can't be serious.

DEE

No Dennis, I think he is.

CHARLIE

Why did we spend all of that time -
wasted! - in the library when we
could learn everything we needed to
know here.

Mac shrugs.

MAC

Plus, if we're going to fight
someone, it may as well be here.

DENNIS

No - ok, whatever, let's go.

Gang shrugs, enters Philadelphia Children's museum.

End.