

Yuletide Time Machine Notes for Pitch

THEMES AND THOUGHTS: Should contain the wit of *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs* and *Wreck-it Ralph* and a little bit of classic *Simpsons*, with similar accents on emotional beats, centered primarily around Jake and Max's relationship to Kevin.

Kevin's an historian, and lives in his books and past events, not in the present where his sons are growing up. He doesn't take the time to talk to them about their problems, but rather just quickly punishes so he can get back to his career.

Mary Anne is like Dennis the Menace's mom - very loving and nurturing but at a loss about what to do about these kids.

Opening prank: the teacher has to be a shit head. A snotty little kid (Hershel) is weeping in front of the class, claiming she brought in volcanic rock for show and tell and someone took them. The massively obese teacher (Mr. Roy) insists that Christmas break doesn't start until someone makes with the rocks. The kid weeps louder. Kids are passed out on their desks. MAX (12) says the rest of the school left for Christmas break a half hour ago. The teacher doesn't care.

Outside, small and cute but nerdy Jake waits outside, bundled in the cold, looking at his very sleek and high-tech watch set to military time. He mutters "where are you Max?"

Back inside, Max says his little brother is waiting outside, and is alone, in the cold, and needs to be walked home. Mr. Roy (now eating his own personal pizza) says to go outside and tell him he's just going to have to wait, and that if he wants to go home, he can convince his

brother to return Hershel's rocks (Hershel cries more). Max goes outside and shares a long, serious gaze with Jake.

Max: Jake.

Jake: Max.

Max: I'm gonna have to call in a 764.

Jake: We declassified that prank, back in 2010. It was deemed unethical by our intelligence.

Max: You mean by you?

Jake: Yeah, our intelligence.

Max has to convince Jake that this is ethical, and that Mr. Roy is a tyrant who needs to be stopped. Max returns to class, while Jake stealthily places automatic remote locks on many doors in the school. Jake has a remote switcher that he tests to make sure he can remotely lock and unlock doors. Mr. Roy asks Max if he or anyone is ready to fess up. Max says he has a confession - he tried to flush them down a toilet in the boys room and now they're stuck. Hershel goes running down the hall toward the boys room, and Mr. Roy chases after him, yelling to be careful. Max announces to the class to take control over their school, to confront the corruption preventing Christmas vacation. He divides the class into thirds, instructing them on exiting through different areas of the school so that at least they won't all be caught together.

Long story short - Max is the vocal liberator, Jake is the silent ninja. At some point a lock should go wrong and Max should have to pick it to save some children from destruction. Mr. Roy is continuously locked in different rooms as Jake manipulates the controls, ultimately trapping him on the roof as snow starts to come down and Mr. Roy watches the students escape, Jake and Max the last ones.

The principal is stick thin and humorless. She and Mr. Roy go to Jake and Max's home, both of whom are in the middle of playing Xbox. Mr. Roy, frost bitten, stares daggers into Max's eyes the entire time as the Principal slowly, quietly, but oh-so-intimidatingly details to Mary-Anne

(Jake and Max's mom) the doomed futures of Max and Jake. She says she understands Mary Anne's husband is an archeologist, but "let me take you into my little time machine. Age 20, Jake and Max are doomed to hand out protein bar samples in the dead of summer. By 25, they're homeless, and selling cheap beauty supplies door to door to guilty friends for end's meet."

They leave and Mary Anne tells the boys that this is the fourth time this semester that the principal has come to her doorstep. She says that if they're not going to listen to her, maybe they'll listen to their father, who has no time for this kind of nonsense.

Kevin comes home in a rush, picking up last minute notes for his career-changing presentation tonight. Mary Anne tries to get his attention as he dashes around the house, talking about how misbehaved the boys have been these past months. Kevin dips in and out of rehearsing his speech as his scolds the boys, mixing up historical dates with the punishment. He shouts at them while showering, still mixing up his speech with what they did. Mary Anne ties his tie and he tells them that if they ever bother their neighbor Mr. Wilson again, it'll be the shores of Normandy for those two. Mary Anne shouts that the boys locked their principal on a roof! Kevin sobers for a moment. "...you did?" He hands them books on the Roman occupation of Israeli and says, "Here, read these, there'll be a uh...test. And if you don't pass it, uh...no Christmas, I guess." Mary Anne tries to dole out real punishments, like no electronics for the night. The boys are outraged, Mary Anne is confused by Kevin's behavior, and Kevin rushes them out, leaving the boys with their awkward babysitter, Meridian. She takes a metal detector to Jake and strips him of all beacons, transmitters, and electronic devices...and a Gameboy.

The boys are locked in their room with a cartoonishly absurd amount of locks on the door. Meridian finishes nailing the last of the wooden boards to keep them trapped. The boys wonder whether or not Christmas would really be cancelled, and agree it's a risk they're not willing to take. Max suggests they reclaim the presents and start a life of their own. Jake suggests that maybe they should just make sure the presents are safe. Dad seemed...unstable. The boys look at their Roman history books. What are we gonna do with these?

In some capacity, they'll use the pages from the books to stage a prank in which they escape the room. They sneak past Meridian who's dancing with a Wii mote obnoxiously (think Miss Piggy, mouth agape). They turn their parents' room upside down, only finding historical documents and relics.

Kevin's doing well at his thing, talking about the past and the future.

Max wonders if the presents are in the Winnebago outside, where Kevin spends all his time. He's able to get little Jake out the Skylight, who now has access to his stash of electronics under the bulkhead. He opens an invisible door right out of the side of the house, and the two escape completely undetected.

The Winnebago is sleekly white inside, and simply hums with cooling fans and the occasional beep. For the first time, all the technology is a mystery to Jake. Max gets in the driver's seat, and notices there's not even a steering wheel, but there's a large LED screen and electronic pen. He draws a smiley face. A voice speaks, "Input unrecognized." Max writes, "Hi I'm Max." The computer reads, "Year dated: HIIMMAX is not recognized." Jake is still messing around with dials. One button causes the whole Winnebago to shake violently. Jake writes, "Stop shaking stupid win o bagel." The compute reads, "Rude. Third failed attempt. Defaulting to most recent visit."

The boys are transported back to a series of events. The Winnebago works like a computer though - you have to commit the changes you made in the past, so the boys are allowed to muck up the past Christmas events as much as they want, but their time will not be changed until they've committed the changes. Kevin comes home and finds the Winnebago gone and has to build a new one from scratch (out of a John Deer tractor). He shouts at Meridian and has to confess to Mary Ann that he's a time traveler, and that's how he's unearthed so many crucial documents. Meridian just wants to go home but he won't let her until they've found the boys (he paid her, after all).

Meanwhile, after some hilarious hijinks involving Charles Dickens, Al Gore (inventing the internet), the three wise men, etc., the boys realize they can use the time machine to change their dad, or better, get rid of him altogether.

Meanwhile Kevin goes back to one of their first Christmases (Jake as an infant, Max a toddler) and sees himself as a younger man, just starting out, before the time machine and everything else. Kevin realizes he has to go back to the moment that the Winnebago was first invented (like, the model of car), and then build a commit function on the John Deer before the boys commit their changes and erase their family forever.

Relate beginning prank back.