

Bobbie, P.I.

(Pilot Episode)

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FADE IN

INT. BOBBIE JONE'S ROOM

The morning sun strikes through the window of a kid's room as a little boy sleeps thoroughly, somewhere in his messy bed.

There's a knock on the door. It's MOM.

MOM (O.S.)
Bobbie! Bobbie! Time for school,
dear!

With his eyes closed and through his daze, Bobbie tries to reassure his mother.

BOBBIE
I'm up, mom.

He snoozes for a beat. Another loud knock.

MOM (O.S.)
(loudly)
Bobbie Jones, you get up this
instant!

He springs up from his bed and shakes the cobwebs.

BOBBIE
I'm up, mom!

CREDITS BEGIN:

As BOBBIE JONES, (12ish) groggily hurries through his room searching for anything to wear.

He finds his baseball cap on top of a MAGNIFYING GLASS.

His pants are in drawer where there are piles and piles of BOOKS (DICTIONARY, ENCYCLOPEDIA, NOVELS OF HARDY BOYS and ENCYCLOPEDIA BROWN, etc.)

He grabs a shirt that is draped over a mirror revealing a small sticker in the shape of a YIELD SIGN which reads, DETECTIVE ON BOARD.

His socks are tucked in a MUG that's shaped as SHERLOCK HOLMES.

We're CLOSE on a notebook as he closes the cover and we see scribbled in big bold letters: BOBBIE P.I.

CREDITS END

INT. BREAKFAST TABLE - BOBBIE'S HOUSE

The JONES family is gathered, eating a hardy breakfast. SUSIE sits opposite Bobby, as always. She's several years older than he is. DAD sits at the head of the table and always reads the paper. Mom dishes out the morning nutrients and appears like she stays home. She's in her robe. We never see the adult's faces.

She gives Bobby his breakfast and then sits in the vacant chair.

Susan stares at Bobby as she eats her food slowly. Bobby stares back.

SUSAN

Mom? Bobby is making that ugly face again!

Mom looks over to Bobby.

MOM

What face dear?

SUSAN

That one!

She looks over.

MOM

He's not making a face.

SUSAN

It's ugly anyway.

MOM

Stop teasing Bobby.

Bobby frowns and seems to be thinking.

BOBBY

Good one, sister dear. Although, I do find your antics quite appealing, well defined and clever, especially so early in the day: such avid cynicism of kin on a daily basis is a problematic syndrome that psychiatrists like to call, "Big sister, Jerk-ism."

She's confused.

SUSAN

Huh?

BOBBIE

How come you never try to use your mental capacity for the good of mankind? At the least, it would be a great three seconds.

SUSAN

What?! Mom! Make him use human words!

Dad responds from behind the paper.

DAD

Don't confuse your sister, Bobbie.

BOBBIE

I'm not confusing her. She was born that way.

SUSAN

Was not!

BOBBIE

Was too!

Bobbie continues his breakfast while frowning at Susan. Susan frowns in return while eating. They stare at each other.

MOM (O.S.)

Hurry you two. You'll be late for the bus.

They didn't hear her and continue their stare contest.

MOM (O.S.) (CONT'D)

(loudly)

Now!

The startled kids run off to school.

EXT. A STREET -- DAY

Bobbie and Susan MOVE up the street.

SUSAN

I'm glad I don't have to ride with you every day.

BOBBIE

The feeling is mutual.

SUSAN
Why can't you act and talk like a
normal kid?

Bobbie resents that.

BOBBIE
I am normal! Unlike yourself, you
geek magnet.

SUSAN
Freak fungus.

BOBBIE
Mutant diarrhea!

SUSAN
Donkey diaper!

BOBBIE
Fermented worm intestines!

She's disgusted.

SUSAN
Ooooh! That's gross!

He laughs.

BOBBIE
Ha! Ha! I grossed you out first!
I always win!

In strides little RALPHIE HUDSON, Bobbie's best friend and
confidant. He's about the same age as Bobbie and is
carrying his book bag.

SUSAN
Here comes your pet monster,
Ralphie.

Bobbie hates that remark. After thinking, he smiles.

BOBBIE
(loudly)
Oh, gross! You really think Ralphie
is cute?!

Susan is in shock.

Ralphie arrives just in time to hear it and flirtatiously
smiles at Susan.

RALPHIE
Hi, Susan.

She becomes grossed out further, smacks her tongue and walks away. Bobbie secretly laughs.

RALPHIE (CONT'D)
Does she really think I'm cute,
Bobbie?

BOBBIE
No, Ralphie. I was just teasing
her.

He's disappointed.

RALPHIE
Oh.

Ralphie watches her walk away.

RALPHIE (CONT'D)
(whispers)
Someday.

BOBBIE
What?

Ralphie quickly gets over it. They MOVE toward the coming school bus.

RALPHIE
Guess what? I got another
assignment for us.

BOBBIE
I told you I don't want you taking
"assignments" for me.

RALPHIE
But Bobbie, you're the only genius
kid in the whole school. Who else
can do this?

BOBBIE
Be that as it may, I still don't
like doing it.

RALPHIE
Why not? Do you how much stuff we
can get because your genius and
my gift of exploiting them? Think
about it.

Bobbie thinks.

BOBBIE
What'd you get this time?

Ralphie digs into his book bag.

RALPHIE

Two, rookie baseball cards of the
best baseball player on the planet?

Bobbie's hyped.

BOBBIE

Derek Jeter?!

Ralphie pulls out a wrapped Derek Jeter baseball card.

RALPHIE

Yep!

Bobbie excitedly grabs the card and takes a long hard look
at it.

BOBBIE

Wow! This is awesome! But it's
only one. You said two.

RALPHIE

Half now and half when the job is
done. Stan says that...

Bobbie abruptly stops Ralphie from walking and is scared.

BOBBIE

Stan, Stan the Bully Man? Are you
crazy?

RALPHIE

What? Why?

BOBBIE

I'm not working for him. He's the
meanest kid in the school.

They MOVE again.

BOBBIE (CONT'D)

What if I can't solve the case?
He'd... he'd... fold me into an
origami frog.

RALPHIE

Listen, Bobbie. This is a multi-
deal! Not only will he let us
keep the cards, but he'll quit
bullying us for the rest of the
school year. And I got that in
writing.

Ralphie pulls out a piece of paper and Bobbie reads it.

BOBBIE
The school year, huh? That's a
pretty good deal.

RALPHIE
Yep.

Bobbie thinks about it.

BOBBIE
Well...

Then he's doubtful.

BOBBIE (CONT'D)
But what if I can't?

RALPHIE
Certain doom, I guess.

BOBBIE
That's it! I'm not doing it! No,
no, no, no!

Bobbie returns the card.

BOBBIE (CONT'D)
Take it back! No deal!

Ralphie is in disbelief.

RALPHIE
But...

The SCHOOL BUS arrives and Bobbie hastily gets on it.

RALPHIE (CONT'D)
(loudly)
Bobbie! You're the best detective
in the school. In the city. In
the country. And I'm not just
saying that.

The disappointed Ralphie follows him into the bus.

INT. BUS

MUSIC PLAYS

The perturbed Bobbie sits behind Ralphie. Ralphie spins around and SLOWLY reveals the baseball cards and then SLOWLY makes it disappear. Bobbie turns his head to look out the window and tries to ignore him.

INT. ENGLISH CLASS

MUSIC CONTINUES

Bobbie sits at Bobbie's right side. Ralphie SLOWLY reveals the baseball cards and then SLOWLY makes it disappear. Bobbie puts his hand at the side of his face and tries to ignore him.

INT. CAFETERIA

MUSIC CONTINUES

Bobbie sits at another across table, across from Ralphie but they can see each other. From the distance, Ralphie SLOWLY reveals the baseball card and then SLOWLY makes it disappear. Bobbie gets up and walks away, again, trying to ignore him.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY

MUSIC CONTINUES

Bobbie journeys to his next class as Ralphie sneaks up. Ralphie slowly reveals the card but now, Bobbie grabs it.

BOBBIE

All right! All right! I'll do it!

Bobbie storms off. Ralphie celebrates.

RALPHIE

(to Himself)

Yes!

The MUSIC STOPS.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY STAN'S LOCKER

Bobbie and Ralphie impatiently wait near Stan's locker.

BOBBIE

He's late.

RALPHIE

He'll be here.

BOBBIE

We're gonna get beat up cause we're too early.

A beat.

RALPHIE

You have your detective equipment?

BOBBIE
Detective equipment? What are you
talking about?

RALPHIE
Your notepad and pencil.

BOBBIE
Oh, yeah.

Bobbie takes out his NOTEPAD and PENCIL.

A deep resounding voice emanates from behind both.

STAN (O.S.)
You Bobbie Jones?

Startled they slowly turn to the voice.

STAN the bully creeps up. From head to toe, he obviously stands out in a school crowd. Standing beside him is FREDDIE, Stan's sidekick. He looks like a second-degree bully.

The sight unnerves Bobbie a little.

BOBBIE
Y... y... yeah.

RALPHIE
Remember me?

Stan gives Ralphie a mean look.

STAN
Was I talking to you?

Ralphie shrinks back.

RALPHIE
(cowardly)
You're absolutely right. I
shouldn't have said anything.

Freddie walks around to stand behind Bobbie. Bobbie takes notice of that.

STAN
(to Bobbie)
I heard that you can find my bird.

BOBBIE
Your what?

STAN
My bird! That's what we're here
for. Right?

BOBBIE
Right! Your bird.

Bobbie glares at Ralphie. Ralphie shrugs. He prepares to
take notes.

BOBBIE (CONT'D)
This bird, was it a canary, a
parrot?

STAN
Wood.

BOBBIE
Wood? A woodpecker?

Stan grows angrier.

STAN
A wooden bird, lame-o! Didn't
this geek-wad fill you in?

He refers to Ralphie.

BOBBIE
Sure! I was just wandering what...
it was supposed to look like.

STAN
Oh.
(Beat)
A pigeon, I guess.

Bobbie scribbles notes.

BOBBIE
This... wooden pigeon... did you
buy it at a store somewhere?

Stan appears confused.

STAN
A store? No! I made it in shop
class. It was supposed to be a
birthday gift for my mom.

BOBBIE
Oh. From your own design?

STAN
I used a plan...

Ralphie tries to hold his giggle but Stan notices.

STAN (CONT'D)
What's so funny, shrimp? You need
a good stompin' today?

Ralphie gets deadly serious.

RALPHIE
(cowardly)
I didn't laugh. I never laugh.
Laughing is against my religion!
I was trying not to sneeze
because...

STAN
Shut up!

Ralphie hurriedly quiets down.

STAN (CONT'D)
(to Bobbie)
I used a plan they had at shop.
My mom's birthday is in three
days. I thought I'd hold it here
'till then.

Bobbie scribbles.

BOBBIE
Where'd you lose it?

STAN
I didn't lose it! Someone stole
it from me.

BOBBIE
Really? Where was it last?

STAN
I left it in my locker.

Bobbie puts the pencil to his chin.

BOBBIE
Mm. There's been a lot of that
lately.

STAN
What?

BOBBIE
A lot of locker burglaries.

Stan proceeds to open his locker.

INSERT on NOTEPAD as Bobby writes: "This is very stupid!"

STAN
I left it right here, on top.

INT. LOCKER

We look out into the hallway as Bobbie gets a closer look at the shelf in the locker.

BOBBIE
When did this happen?

STAN
Two days ago. During lunch.

BOBBIE
How do you know it was during lunch?

STAN
Duh! I put it in just before I went to lunch with Stan! I came back and it was gone!

BOBBIE
Oh!

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - STAN'S LOCKER

Stan slams the locker shut. Bobbie scribbles some more.

INSERT as Bobbie writes: "Very, Very stupid!"

BOBBIE
Does anyone else know your combination?

STAN
No.

RALPHIE
Why didn't you talk to the principal about this?

Stan quickly puts his face in Ralphie's, making Ralphie back up into the locker, bumping his head.

STAN
(angrily)
Because I know he doesn't like me. That's why?

Ralphie's really scared.

RALPHIE

You? Such a precious angel? How dare he!

BOBBIE

Ralphie, can I ask the questions from now on, please?

Ralphie nervously nods.

RALPHIE

Good idea.

BOBBIE

(to Stan)

They can still help, you know. That's what they're there for.

STAN

That's not my style, man.

INSERT as Bobbie writes: "Stan, Stan, the geek freak man!"

Bobbie turns around to talk to Freddie who is directly behind him.

BOBBIE

(to Freddie)

How about you?

FREDDIE

What about me?

BOBBIE

You went to lunch with Stan, right?

FREDDIE

Yeah.

BOBBIE

Did you see anything suspicious?

FREDDIE

What am I? A detective?

BOBBIE

Just answer the question.

Freddie looks to Stan, seeking permission. Stan nods his approval.

FREDDIE

No.

BOBBIE

Were you with Stan all day?

FREDDIE

We don't have every class together
but when we're out, we hang.

BOBBIE

What classes do you have together?

FREDDIE

As a matter of fact, shop class.
We have it just before lunch
period.

BOBBIE

So then, on that day in question,
did you see Stan put the bird in
the locker?

Freddie thinks hard.

FREDDIE

Yeah.

BOBBIE

Tell me what happened.

FREDDIE

After Stan put the finishing
touches on the bird at shop, the
bell rang and we walked over to
the locker together.

Stan can recall.

STAN

Oh, yeah! That's right! That's
before I kicked him in the shin
because he called by bird stupid
looking. I didn't like that. It's
a gift for my mom.

Freddie smiles and agrees.

FREDDIE

Oh, yeah! I remember. As a matter
of fact, that's the first time
he's ever hit me.

BOBBIE

Aren't you angry with him?

FREDDIE
Why should I be? He's my best
friend! We don't hold grudges.

BOBBIE
You were with him throughout lunch?

FREDDIE
Sure! Except when I went to the
bathroom.

A beat.

BOBBIE
What's your locker number, Freddie?

FREDDIE
Why?

Bobbie thinks.

BOBBIE
Just in case something is stolen
from your locker too. Maybe someone
is holding a grudge against the
both of you.

FREDDIE
L1-R3-L15.

STAN
Can you help me or not?

Bobbie thinks for a second.

BOBBIE
Okay. But it's going to take some
time.

STAN
You got before my mother's
birthday. Or else!
(beat)
Come on, Freddie.

They walk off. Bobbie closes his book.

RALPHIE
Well?

BOBBIE
We'll have to wait.

RALPHIE
Wait? Wait for what?

BOBBIE

The pigeon trap to spring.

Bobbie leaves as Ralphie stands there with a confused look on his face.

INT. BOBBIE'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Bobbie has just come from the kitchen carrying a glass of milk. As he passes his sister's door, he hears her mention his name to someone on the phone.

SUSAN (O.S.)

Bobbie!

(beat)

Yeah. He said he liked you so very much. He wants to send hugs and kisses.

She makes "kissy, kissy" noises and then giggles.

Bobbie doesn't like what he's hearing. He sneaks up on his sister's door, which is slightly open and peeks in.

His POV shows that she's on the phone.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

Why would I lie to you? You're my best friend! My brother is in love with you.

She laughs.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

It's not gross. It's love!

Bobbie appears very upset. He thinks for a second, then runs into his room.

INT. BOBBIE JONE'S ROOM

He searches in his drawers for a-

Portable CASSETTE PLAYER and some WIRES with two ELECTRONIC CLIPS attached. In another drawer he grabs a CASSETTE with the words HALLOWEEN SOUNDS written on it.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY BOBBIE'S HOUSE

Near his sister's room, there's a TELEPHONE outlet that Bobbie's cleverly hacked into, using the wires and clips. He connects the other end of the wires to the tape player then, turns it on. He quietly snickers.

INT. SUSAN'S ROOM

SUSAN
Oh, come on. My brother is not
that geeky.

We can hear a CLICK coming from her phone and then-

GHOST (V.O.)
I'm going to get you! HA HA HA
HA! You shall not escape me so
easily! HA HA HA HA HA HA!

Susan's face turns to terror.

SUSAN
Who is this?!

GHOST (V.O.)
(chillingly)
I will get you! HA HA HA HA HA
HA!

She throws the phone and screams. On the receiving end of
the phone, we hear Susan's friend.

SUSAN FRIEND (V.O.)
Aaaahhh!

INT. BOBBIE'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

She scurries out her room and dashes for the stairs leading
down.

SUSAN
(panicked)
Mom! Dad! Somebody's in the house!
Somebody's in the house!

She screams. All the while, Bobbie is on the floor, dying
of laughter.

INT. BREAKFAST TABLE BOBBIE'S HOUSE

Bobbie and Susan have another one of their staring contests.
She looks angrier this morning, while he smiles.

A beat.

BOBBIE
Did you have a good night's sleep,
sister dear?

She gives him the evil eye.

MOM (O.S.)
 (loudly)
 Now!

The frightened kids run off.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY

It is between classes and there are students scurrying about as Bobbie is among them. Ralphie catches up with him. He looks worried.

RALPHIE
 Bobbie! What did you tell Stan?!

BOBBIE
 What are you talking about?

RALPHIE
 He's been looking all over for you. He wants to see you after school. I think he wants to fight!

BOBBIE
 Really? Why?

RALPHIE
 You called him a geek-freak.

Bobbie remains calm.

BOBBIE
 Is that right?

He smiles wildly.

BOBBIE (CONT'D)
 Ensnared is the bird as the swinging cage door closes and traps a fink.

Bobbie heads off leaving Ralphie bewildered.

RALPHIE
 What?
 (to himself)
 His brain finally broke. It's all my fault. I pushed him too far.
 (to loudly Bobbie)
 Where are you going?

BOBBIE
 I need to talk to the principal.
 Fast!

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

The PRINCIPAL is sitting down behind the desk of the office, busying himself. We never see his face.

Bobbie walks through the door.

BOBBIE
Principal Lear?

PRINCIPAL
Ah! Robert Jones, our resident genius. Come in, please. Sit down. What can I do for you?

Bobbie takes a seat.

BOBBIE
Well sir, I know who's been stealing items from other people's lockers but I need solid proof.

PRINCIPAL
Mm. Are you sure?

BOBBIE
Have I ever been wrong?

A beat.

PRINCIPAL
What do you need from me?

Bobby smiles.

BOBBIE
A day in Wood Shop!

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY

It's after school and Bobbie, Ralphie and a JANITOR, whose face we can't see, stands near a certain locker.

From the distance, we see the principal bringing the not so eager Stan and Freddie toward them. Stan sees Bobbie.

STAN
(angrily to Bobbie)
You! Rat fink! I'll get you for what you said to me.

BOBBIE
What!

PRINCIPAL

Now, now! We'll have none of that!

STAN

You thought this whole thing was stupid and you also called me a geek-freak!

BOBBIE

Where did you hear that?

STAN

From Freddie! That's who!

BOBBIE

But that's impossible! I haven't talked to Freddie since yesterday, and you were here.

FREDDIE

You said it. Don't lie, man!

Bobbie takes out his notepad.

BOBBIE

Unless... you read it from my notes. Right? You looked over my shoulders, didn't you?

Bobbie shows Stan the entry in the pad.

FREDDIE

See? He did call you a geek-freak!

STAN

Yeah! After school! Me and you!

PRINCIPAL

Behave yourself, Stanley!

BOBBIE

Don't you see, Stan? I was trying to prove a point.

STAN

What?

BOBBIE

Freddie looked over my shoulders to get these notes just like he looked over your shoulders to get your locker combination.

FREDDIE

What? He's lying!

STAN

What do you mean?

BOBBIE

Freddie's angry at you because you kicked him in the shin. So, he decided to get even by taking your bird during the time that he was supposedly in the bathroom at lunchtime.

FREDDIE

(hollers)

That's a lie! Oh, I'll get you for this.

PRINCIPAL

Quiet!

BOBBIE

(to the Janitor)

Can you open locker this locker, please?

He points to Freddie's locker.

JANITOR

Sure.

The janitor uses the MASTER KEY and opens the locker to reveal-

-A WOODEN BIRD sitting on the top shelf. Freddie is shocked.

FREDDIE

That can't be!

BOBBIE

Why?

FREDDIE

Because I threw it away when...!
I mean...!

He quickly covers his mouth- he's said too much. Stan is openly disappointed in his best friend.

STAN

Et tu, Brutus? How could you, man? You're my best friend.

FREDDIE

I didn't mean it, Freddie! I was upset! You can understand that, right? You'd do the same, right?

Stan frowns and hits his fist to his palm. Freddie runs for his life.

PRINCIPAL

Frederick! Frederick! No running
in the halls!

The principal goes after him.

PRINCIPAL (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Frederick! No running!

Stan is saddened but relieved.

STAN

I can't believe it.

(beat)

You did it. You found my bird.
You are the smartest kid in the
school, man.

BOBBIE

Actually, this is not your bird.

STAN

Yes it is.

BOBBIE

I made this one today. I used the
same plans you did at wood shop.

STAN

I... I don't get it.

BOBBIE

I was suspicious of Freddie from
the start. I saw him looking over
my shoulders. I suspected that
Freddie took your bird and put it
in his locker and then later,
when you weren't watching, he
threw it out. But I had no proof.
So, I had to trap him.

Bobbie takes the BIRD from the shelf.

BOBBIE (CONT'D)

You can have this one if you like,
to replace the lost one.

Stan slowly takes the bird from Bobbie.

STAN

Why are you so cool to me? I've been nothing but a mean person to you.

BOBBIE

My dad once told me that if you pay back mean-spirited people with the very things they dish out, the world would be full of nothing but mean-spirited people.

Stan looks touched.

STAN

Thanks, man.

(beat)

Hey, if anyone ever bothers you, come see me about it.

BOBBIE

Mm. Brain and muscle? I'd like that.

STAN

I'll have your other card later.

Stan walks off with his new bird. The janitor closes the locker and walks away.

Bobbie and Ralphie MOVE.

BOBBIE

You know, this isn't too bad.

RALPHIE

Really? Because I got some more work lined up for you.

BOBBIE

Listen... consult me first before you do anything. Okay?

FADE TO BLACK:

CREDITS START

RALPHIE (V.O.)

OK. How about this? Sally Jenkins, she lost her tuba.

BOBBIE (V.O.)

Eeeew! "Sally Braces"? No way.

A notebook page turns.

RALPHIE (V.O.)
George Henderson, needs to find
his lost "Action Dog 2, The Video
Game".

BOBBIE (V.O.)
Next!

CREDITS END: