

THE LOUD HOUSE

#326 - "Doll Day Afternoon"

Written by

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INT. RV - ROUTE 66 - DAY

DAD drives the RV down a desert highway while MOM types on her laptop from the passenger seat. She stops and looks up:

1 MOM
<SIGH> There! I just finished my article on "The Raddest Restaurants of Route 66!" <CHUCKLES> Fun title, huh kids?

REVEAL the KIDS clutching their full stomachs. They give her a weak thumbs up.

2 LINCOLN/LOLA/LISA/LUNA/LUAN
<GROAN>

2A LORI/LENI/LANA/LUCY/LILY
<GROAN>

3 MOM
<HMMM> Maybe eating at ten diners in a row was a little bit ambitious.

4 LYNN
I mean... I could go for more.

5 LUAN
<GROAN> Not me. I'm so stuffed I could be a Thanksgiving turkey--
<BELCH!>

Stink lines waft through the air. The Louds plug their noses.

6 LINCOLN/LUNA/LOLA
Eww!/Gross!/Not cool, Luan!/That does not smell like Turkey!

CLOSE ON LUAN:

7 LUAN
It wasn't me, it was Mr. Coconuts!
(as Coconuts)
You know I can't resist the All-You-Can-Eat Coleslaw Bar.

PULL OUT TO REVEAL: Luan is puppeting her bare hand. Luan looks at her bare hand. Her eyes widen as she realizes that Mr. Coconuts isn't there!

8 LUAN (CONT'D)
<SCREAM> <FRANTIC> Where's Mr. Coconuts?!

Luan frantically searches. She lifts the couch with her siblings on it to look underneath.

13 LUNA
Alright. Chill, dude. Where's the last place you remember having him?

14A LUAN
At the last diner. I ordered a peppermint bark milkshake and I'll never forget the look he gave me. We have to turn back!

15 DAD
Aw, gee, sweetie. That diner is fifty miles in the other direction and I--

16 LUAN
Dad! He's a member of the family.

SCREECH! Dad abruptly turns around, the RV on two wheels as he turns.

17 DAD
No Loud left behind!

INT. THE GREASY SPOON - SHORTLY AFTER

Luan kicks open the doors and the Louds rush in behind her. REVEAL a 1950s-style diner with big red booths, neon signs, and roller-skating WAITRESSES.

19A LUAN
Everybody freeze.

Everybody at the diner turns to look at the Louds.

19D LUAN (CONT'D)
Has anyone seen a short man with a wooden posture and even more wooden punchlines?

The diner patrons blink and resume their meals. Luan scans the place.

20 LUAN (CONT'D)
Looks like we'll just have to tear this place apart!

The kids nod and disperse. Mom and Dad follow them, anxious.

21 MOM
Kids, you know she means that
figuratively, right?

CUT TO the Kids searching the tables and booths.

Lynn lifts a patron's seat and looks underneath.

23A LYNN
All clear here!

CUT TO Leni eyes three dishes by the pickup window. She lifts each and throws them O.S.

29 LORI (O.S.)
<OOF>!

REVEAL: The food hit Lori, spilling all over her.

30 LENI
Oops!

Not recognizing Lori.

30A LENI (CONT'D)
Excuse me, sir, have you seen Mr.
Coconuts?

A waitress walks by holding a wash bin. Lily pops out inspecting the dishes.

LILY
<GRUNT>

CUT TO Luan and Lincoln eyeing multiple customers food.

31 LUAN/LINCOLN
<HMMMMs...>

A customer holds his food away from Lincoln. Luan pops up and takes a bite.

32 LUAN
<CHEWS> No puppet meat in these
burgers!

The waitress leans against the counter and changes channels on the diner's TV. She lands on a channel showing an image from the diner SECURITY CAMERA. Lisa sees herself on camera.

37 LISA
<GASP> Eureka! A security camera.

Luan pops into frame and talks to the waitress.

38 LUAN
Ma'am, we have to see today's
security tapes. It's an emergency!

The waitress shrugs and hands Lisa the remote. Lisa changes channels to a security camera covering the parking lot where they see footage from earlier. Luan watches intently, then:

39 LUAN (CONT'D)
<GASP!> There he is!

ON THE SCREEN: Grainy footage of Mr. Coconuts being taken by a man into a vintage STATION WAGON with a "Dust is a Must!" bumper sticker. A DISGUISED MAN wearing a coat and oversized sunhat leaps into the driver's seat and takes off. **BACK TO DINER:**

40 LUAN (CONT'D)
I didn't lose Mr. Coconuts. He
was...puppet-napped!

Lisa studies the car's bumper sticker.

42 LISA
"Dust is a Must...?"
(searching on her phone)
<GASP> Aha! It appears that bumper
sticker refers to the slogan for
Dusty Springs, a small town just
southwest from here.

43 LUAN
So, if we find the town, we'll find
Mr. Coconuts!

44 LOLA
Ugh. This is gonna be our whole
day, isn't it?

INT. DUSTY SPRINGS - SHORTLY AFTER

Dad drives the RV up to a small town with a sign that reads:
"Dusty Springs - World's 34th Largest Spring".

51 MOM
This is certainly off the beaten
path <NERVOUS CHUCKLE>.

51A LUAN
It's time to spring into action and
save Mr. C!

The Louds walk into a small townsquare, which consists of just a few pioneer storefronts. Luan jumps on the town's giant spring monument to get a better view.

53 LUAN (CONT'D)
Okay, here's the plan! We're gonna knock on every dusty door, and look under every dusty rock. We are not leaving until we find him. Here-

Luan hands out photos.

53A LUAN (CONT'D)
These posters from our Spring water follies show will help the locals identify him!

CLOSE ON the posters: they're of Coconuts and Luan on a stage.

CUT TO someone's POV (CALVIN, who we'll meet soon), as they watch the Louds walk away. He <BREATHES HEAVILY>.

56 CALVIN (O.S.)
<HEAVY BREATHING>

56A LUAN
Now, let's get to work.

EXT. TOWNSQUARE - DUSTY SPRINGS - CONTINUOUS

The Louds show the posters to various LOCALS who all shake their heads no.

EXT. NEW AGE GIFT SHOP - DUSTY SPRINGS - CONTINUOUS

Enya-like music plays in a new age crystal and southwestern gift shop. Luan and the Louds show the poster to the STOREOWNER, an old-school hippy-type wearing a big peace sign necklace.

62 STOREOWNER
Yeah he looks familiar.
(trance-like)
His aura is near, but I sense...
distress.

63 LUAN
Oh no!

EXT. RV - DUSTY SPRINGS - SAME TIME

The Mysterious Figure(Calvin), opens the RV door. He reaches for the emergency break and disengages it.

EXT. NEW AGE GIFT SHOP - DUSTY SPRINGS - SAME TIME

BACK TO the Louds, Luan faces the family.

LUAN

What are we gonna do?

Suddenly, the RV rushes past them, out of control. Lynn grabs a rope from a nearby post.

66 DAD

<GASP> Dang it! I must have forgotten the emergency brake!

67 LOUD FAMILY WALLA

<RUNNING EFFORTS>

They race after the RV as it plummets down a hill. They can't keep up as it barrels towards a steep GULCH.

68 LINCOLN

It's headed for that gulch!

69B LYNN

Oh no it's not!

She fastens the rope into a lasso and swings it at the RV. She manages to latch onto a rail and pulls.

71 LYNN (CONT'D)

<THROW EFFORT> <YOINK!>

But she's not strong enough and is dragged by the RV. The Louds clamor around Lynn and pull with her...

73A LOUD FAMILY WALLA

<PULLING EFFORTS>

...until the RV finally stops, right before the gulch.

74 LOUD FAMILY WALLA (CONT'D)

<PHEW!>

Whew! They race to it and stop in shock.

75 LOUD FAMILY WALLA (CONT'D)

<GASP!>

The words "Stay Away" are written on the rear window in dust. Leni turns to leave.

76 LENI
Stay away? Come on, guys, the RV
totes needs some alone time.

77 LUAN
No Leni, this is a warning from the
puppet-napper. He knows we're here
and he wants to keep us from
finding Mr. Coconuts. We must be
close.

78 LISA
Close indeed.

Lisa holds high-power binoculars. **BINOCULARS POV:** We see the station wagon from the grainy video speed off. Lisa hones in on the "Dust is a Must" bumper sticker.

The family watches the station wagon drive off.

78A LOUD FAMILY WALLA
<GASP!>

80 LUAN
Don't worry, Mr. Coconuts! We're
coming to save you! **MP**

The Louds jump in the RV and drive off.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF TOWN - LATER

In the RV, the Louds follow the car past the townsquare, through the remote desert, and down a long driveway. Lisa is upfront with Mom and Dad using her binoculars to track the car.

81 LISA
He's heading towards that barn.

The car parks at a rough-looking BARN. The RV pulls up behind it.

82 LUAN
We've got him cornered. Come on,
you guys!

INT. BARN - CONTINUOUS

The Louds open the barn doors.

83 LUCY (V.O.)
On a creep scale of 1-10, I'd call
this a 9.

REVEAL a workshop packed with all kinds of SMILING
MARIONETTES (mermaids, animals, musical theater dancers,
etc.)

84 LUCY
Correction: 900.

The Louds search the workshop. A WARPED, CREEPY BLUEGRASS
SONG begins to play and crackle. The Louds look up, alarmed.
The song transitions into a creepy banjo solo.

86 LUNA
Banjo solo. Never a good sign,
dudes.

The Marionettes' eyes shoot open all at once. The Louds
<SCREAM>. The dolls begin to rise menacingly and chant:

87 CALVIN (MARIONETTE WALLA)
Stay away!/Leave!/Get out!

The Louds back up, terrified. Luan looks up and sees the
silhouette of the DISGUISED MAN (Calvin), with a controller,
manipulating the puppets from the barn rafters.

90 LUAN
It's him!
(yelling)
Nice try, Puppet-napper! But it'll
take more than a few marionettes to
scare us away!

91 LOLA
Speak for yourself, Luan!

The Marionettes lunge and trap all the Louds, including Luan,
in a MARIONETTE FIGHT CLOUD!

92A MOM
Keep your dirty felt paws off my
kids!

The Louds are now tied up in strings. The still disguised
Puppet-napper (Calvin) leaps from the rafters, pulling down
one of the controllers and the family is hoisted up. Calvin
rushes towards the barn doors.

93 CALVIN
Sorry, large family. This isn't
personal!

The door SLAMS! The song ends. The Louds are still entangled in all the marionette strings and struggle to free themselves. They hear a CAR start O.S.

94A MOM
Yes it is! Nobody ties up my family
in a dusty barn! Good thing Lily's
teething! Go to work, sweetie!

Suddenly Lily <CHOMPS> at the ropes, breaking them.

95 LILY
<CHOMPING>

The family crashes down.

96 LOUD FAMILY WALLA
<SCREAM!> <OOF!>

98 MOM
This is not over. Lynn, give me the
keys to the RV.

INT./EXT. RV - DESERT HIGHWAY - SUNSET

With mom in the driver's seat, the Louds take off after the Puppet-napper.

99B MOM
You're mine Puppet-napper!

VROOM! Mom drives the RV at full speed. Luan looks through BINOCULARS in search of the Disguised Man's car.

100 LUAN
Mom, there's his car!

OUTSIDE the car turns off the road and into the desert. His tires spray DUST all over the RV's windshield, clouding their view. Mom turns on the windshield wipers but they don't help.

101 MOM
I don't have a visual.

102 LUAN
He's too far away! We'll never
catch up now!

103 LISA
Inaccurate. We still have one more
trick up our proverbial sleeves!
(MORE)

LISA (CONT'D)

(pulls remote out of
sleeve)

Activate...rocket mode.

OUTSIDE rocket boosters (from #322) emerge from the back of the RV. WHOOSH! The RV zooms quickly rushing past a pile of animal skeleton bones. As they zip by, the skeleton bones fly up and are put back together. The skeleton runs off as the Louds pass Calvin's car!

104 LUAN

Wait! Go back!

Mom turns the RV and blasts the front lights at the car, which causes it to swerve. The car crashes.

The Disguised Man (Calvin) gets out of the car with Mr. Coconuts and runs for it.

105 CALVIN

You'll never catch me!! <LAUGHS>
OOF!

Calvin trips over a spring and falls to the ground.

106 CALVIN (CONT'D)

Oh, curse these Dusty Springs dusty
springs!

The Louds surround him. Luan grabs back Mr. Coconuts.

107 LUAN

It's over, Puppet-napper!

108 CALVIN

<UGH> Stop calling me that! I could
never puppet-nap him, because I'm--
(ripping off his hat)
His father! Calvin Coconuts!

Calvin looks just like an older version of Mr. C!

109 LOUD FAMILY WALLA

<GASP!>

110 LUNA

I had a nightmare about this once.

111 LUAN

I... I don't understand.

112 CALVIN

Years ago, I, a renowned puppet-maker, created Calvin Jr to look like the most handsome man I know...me!

113 LOLA

Wow. Conceited much?

114A CALVIN

Soon, we were touring the country as a father/puppet banjo act. It was the perfect life... until fate brought us to Royal Woods.

FLASHBACK TO: Calvin and Mr. Coconuts finish performing for a small crowd at Tall Timbers Park. As they bow, a BIRD swoops down and grabs Mr. Coconuts right off Calvin's hand. Calvin panics and runs after them but it's no use.

115 CALVIN (CONT'D)

<RUNNING EFFORTS> Mr. Coconuts, come back!

Calvin sheds a single tear. Mr. C is gone!

SKY: The bird flies with Mr. C until he collides with a KITE and drops him. **PAN TO** an eleven-year-old Lori flying a kite in front of the Loud House while a bored, six-year-old Luan sits on the front steps. Suddenly, Mr. C falls right next to her. Luan notices the words "Hi! I'm Mr. Coconuts" written on his pants. She lights up and shakes his hand.

116 LUAN

<GASP!> Well, it's nice to meet you Mr. Coconuts!
(as Mr. Coconuts)
Likewise, toots!

117 CALVIN (V.O.)

I never thought I'd see my boy again. Until earlier today <GASP> when I was hankering for some coleslaw...

FLASHBACK: Calvin enters the diner. He spots Luan and Mr. Coconuts sharing a milkshake with two straws.

119 LUAN

Ooh. Too much milkshake. BRB, Mr. C!

Luan leaves for the bathroom.

120 CALVIN (V.O.)
When I saw him, something came over me and I just couldn't bear to lose him again. So, I did what I had to do.

Calvin quickly grabs Mr. Coconuts and runs out of the diner.
BACK TO THE DESERT:

A tearful Calvin blows his nose loudly.

121 CALVIN
<DRAMATIC NOSE BLOW>

CLOSE ON a crestfallen Luan:

122 LUAN
So, all of this means... <GASP> Mr. Coconuts was never really mine! **LP**

A conflicted Luan looks down at Mr. Coconuts.

123 LUAN (CONT'D)
Calvin, I think Mr. Coconuts should stay with you.

124 LOUD FAMILY WALLA
<GASP!>

125 DAD
Luan, are you sure?

126 LUAN
Yes. I have to do the right thing.
This is <SOB> for the best! <SNIFF>

The Louds smile at Luan and put their arms around her. Luan hands Coconuts to Calvin.

127 CALVIN
<SMOOCHES MR. COCONUTS>

128 LUAN
(fighting back tears)
<SNIFF> Uh, before I go-- um --
91 (hands over whoopie cushion)
Here's his favorite whoopie cushion.
(handing him a toothbrush)
And his toothbrush. And actually, I have his travel suitcase right here.

Luan hands a tiny suitcase to a speechless Calvin and walks away. She stops and takes one last look at Mr. Coconuts.

129 LUAN (CONT'D)
<SAD CHUCKLE> Here's lookin' at
you, toots!

Luan turns and goes. The Louds quickly follow.

INT. RV - DESERT - SUNSET

The Louds settle in. Luan sits with Mom and Dad at the kitchen table.

130 MOM
I am so proud of you, Luan. I know
that wasn't easy.

131 LUAN
Thanks, Mom. I can't believe I'll
never see Mr. Coconuts again. I'm
gonna miss his jokes, his smile,
his pine fresh scent...

132 CALVIN (AS MR. COCONUTS) (O.S.)
Hey! What about my boyish charm?

133 LUAN
<GASP!>

Luan turns to see Calvin and Mr. C sitting across from them.

134 MOM
(whispering to Dad)
We have to start locking the RV.

135 CALVIN
(pulling out the poster)
You left this poster behind and...
it looks like you two have a good
thing going. I think Calvin Jr
should stay with you.

136 LUAN
Really? You mean it?

137 CALVIN
Absolutely! I'm retired and my
performing days are behind me. But
you two are just getting started! I
trust you'll help my boy share his
talents with the world. Or at least
greater Michigan.

Calvin hands Mr. C to an ecstatic Luan.

138 LUAN
Oh thank you, Mr. Coconuts, Sr! You
can come visit Mr. C any time! Ooo!
And bring your marionettes, too -
we have plenty of room!

Dad raises his finger to object. Mom gently lowers it.

139 CALVIN
It's a deal!
 (pulls out banjo)
Now uh, whattaya think, Jr? One
song for old times-sake?

140 LUAN (AS MR. COCONUTS)
 (taking out a mini banjo)
You read my mind, Papa!

Calvin plays an out-of-tune BANJO STING.

141 LOLA
<UGH> This is gonna be our whole
night, isn't it?

THE END