MadMay Variety Show

*and*

*Ryder too*!

Created

by

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**STORY BIBLE**

Maddy and Mayla are 8-year-old fraternal twin girls who grapple with a sense of family as they split their time living between their recently divorced parents' homes.  Yet, the girls are determined to reunite Dad (who is fitness-obsessed, yet overweight with a big gut) and Mom, a straight-laced lawyer who wears suits to bed. To accomplish this, Maddy and Mayla become enthralled in a lot of antics as they enlist the help of their theatrical live-in, cousin Ryder, age 11. Ryder somehow always has a different celebrity friend "in the biz" who appears on the show to help the pre-teens.

“Mad May” (as they are known to their friends) are fraternal twins (meaning they don't look alike) and they are determined to get their parents back together.  Dad and Mom had met and married later in life in their 40s, everlasting for Dad, maybe not so much for mom, until surprise – Twins!  Now, Dad is an overweight bodybuilder and health nut who has no clue how to raise girls-especially, manipulative girls who are able to get whatever they want from him. He feels guilty about the divorce, and the girls use this to their advantage. He only wears sleeveless shirts, including dress shirts, although his gut seems to always protrude.  Mom is a controlling, driven lawyer. On one hand, she can't believe that she was once married to seemingly dim-witted Dad yet, she is still attracted to him as she sees his warm interactions with their daughters. She is very strict with the girls and a total contradiction in parenting style to how Dad is raising them. Mom works hard to be successful and she is. She has the same high standards for herself as she does her daughters. She has a very strict sense of business attire which is the antithesis to Dad.

**MEET THE CAST:**

MADDY - twin sister of Mayla. She is older--by one minute and often tries to use this to her advantage as the "older sister." She is very fashion-minded, diva-esque, and is always wearing purple, including 8 (one for each year of her life) bracelets on her left arm. She is outspoken and outgoing with tons of friends.  Do not be deceived by her obsession and apparent distraction for girlie-things; she is very athletic and bright. She is also highly intuitive, and strongly, yet subtly, manipulative. She is carefree like her stay-at-home Dad.

MAYLA - twin sister of Maddy. Mayla is a bespectacled, analytical thinker who gets lost in her own world of thought when she focuses so intently on whatever she's working on--be it homework, a puzzle, a book, etc. She prefers the color pink, but she is not obsessed by such trivial things. She is smart, studious, and unconsciously and nonchalantly speaks in multisyllabic words and such phrases that often have friends and family turning their heads--unsure of what she means and wondering how an 8-year-old can have so many Savant-style sayings. She is like her attorney mother.

RYDER - Eclectic, vivacious cousin who lives with Maddy and Mayla.  He's equally clumsy as he is charming with a mysterious link and friendship with celebrities.  Ryder loves theater and acting, and he is an overly theatric, Shakespearean actor type who can break into song of *Les Miserables* at any random moment.  He is more than willing to help Maddy and Mayla in their schemes to get Mom and Dad back together.  He also loves to eat and is often seen munching mostly on Froot Loops. Ryder is a constant show guest whose parents are "carnies" [carnival staff] who are never around due to constant traveling with the carnival.  Ryder is gregariously goofy and consistently surprises everyone with close ties to a variety of A-list actors who often appear as part of the variety show.

DAD - is a hefty [think: Kevin James-build] guy who is obsessed with working out and becoming a meathead, muscle-bound type. He works odd jobs but as a stay-at-home dad, mostly he works out. He is more of a giant cuddly teddy bear.  We aren't quite sure what he does for a living other than spend most of his time raising the girls since Mom is often on business trips. Maddy and Mayla live the majority of time with Dad and easily convince him [sometimes obliviously] to do what they want. He lovingly refers to the girls as his "twin-sies."

MOM - is a dry, driven, focused attorney who travels a lot for work. She loves her daughters immensely but often has to rush off on a business trip. She splits custody with Dad when she can.  She is very analytical, strict, and quick-witted. The girls try but cannot outsmart as her intuition guides her. Though she wears glasses and hair in a bun for work, there is beauty behind the façade.

**THE PILOT**

The pilot and its first story involve something as seemingly simple as the girls wanting a dog. They find a puppy, and Dad is allergic, hyper-allergic. The plan is that the twins enlist the help of Ryder who transports the puppy in his backpack between stays at Mom and Dad's houses. The kids must feed, care for and bathe the puppy without either parent realizing what is going on. Naturally, this “found” puppy is owned by Demi Lovato, who happens to know Ryder and invites the girls to keep *Sugarplum* while she tours.

The theme is today's ever-evolving family--the stress of divorce on the family, differing parenting styles and the impact on the children. This show deals with some of the relevant emotional issues of today along with the underlying generally light-hearted humor approach as the children scheme to try to mend the family dynamic. The children learn the value of a family, even a dysfunctional one, as they face challenges such as bullying, struggles with self-identity (including their “twininicity”) having pets, dance-offs, and current themes central to all families.

The pilot is directed to families and kids. It is a cross between Full House, the Cosby Show and the old-school, skit-driven Carol Burnett show where a consistent guest actor falls into the recurring role of Ryder's "cousin" or show business friend "in the biz."

**EPISODE BREAKDOWN:**

PILOT:  THE PUPPY - Maddy and Mayla find a puppy and try to keep it a secret from Mom and Dad, who is allergic. The twins enlist help from their cousin Ryder who transports the dog back and forth between the divorced parents' homes in his backpack. The girls are distraught over the parents' newly divorcing and desperately hope the dog will help the family feel like a family again. Eventually, Mom and Dad help search for an owner, who ends up being Ryder's friend, Demi Lovato.

EPISODE 2: THE BULLY - Mayla, who wears eyeglasses to correct a lazy eye, gets bullied at school for wearing glasses. Mayla tries to function without her specs to ward off the bullying.  She can’t keep any secrets from her twin sister and unwitting cousin.  So when Mom and Dad find out, Dad tries to be a body guard and follow girls everywhere, Mom and Ryder "hire" Terry Crews to truly bodyguard the girls. Then the parents head to the principal's office.

EPISODE 3: THE DANCE OFF - Competition brews between the twin sisters as each tries to devise a dance to beat a snobby classmate who makes fun of the girls because their parents are divorced. Ryder and Dad attempt to help each girl with dance moves. Ryder feels tension between the competing girls, so he calls upon his friend John Travolta to help master the moves.  Maddy becomes overly obsessed with the performance outfits, and Mayla worries over the exacting dance steps to this retro disco dance competition. The two sisters, however, realize the power in working together. Guest stars: John Travolta and Barry Gibb from Bee Gees as celebrity dance contest judge.

EPISODE 4: TWIN SWAP - Maddy and Mayla are fraternal twins who do not look alike nor act alike. Yet, their quirky cousin Ryder mixes up their names so often that the girls decide to play a trick on him by swapping identities. As they do, they see a glimpse of how it is to walk in the other's shoes. Dad at first can't tell the difference since he's consumed by transforming his body image for a free kitchen makeover / fitness competition.  Ryder, who has been trying his hand in magic, is the opening act for the show. He, too, can't decipher between the twins' switching roles. Even their friends have trouble telling them apart--after all, Maddy begrudgingly wears pink and dons Mayla's glasses, and she styles her sister in one of her signature purple ensembles.  Ryder learns his lesson and then calls upon his friends, Jonathan and Drew Scott, the famous twin duo known as the Property Brothers. They're in town for the competition and help the girls see some fellow twin perspective.

EPISODE 5: SURPRISE BIRTHDAYS - Obviously, twins typically share their birthday, MadMay by one minute.  Each girl, however, wants to throw a surprise birthday for her sister. Trouble is, they each separately try to enlist the help of Ryder. Ryder of course says yes to each cousin...only to find out that each girl wants the party at the same time, on the same day, at the same place--Dad's house. Ryder scrambles to organize the bashes--which are totally different. Maddy wants to throw Mayla, an animal lover, a party where the local dog shelter brings over pooches to get cleaned up for adoption.  Mayla wants to throw Maddy a surprise birthday party where she and her friends get pampered with manicures and pedicures.  Ryder thinks he has it all together, but then rain forces the pooches and the pedicures to intermingle in a hairy mess. Guest star Jimmy Fallon makes an appearance looking to add to his famous puppy predictors.

STORY SETS:

Dad’s House, Mom’s House, School Classroom/Lockers