

Bad Guitar Lesson
by
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INT. PRACTICE ROOM - DAY

A smiling ELECTRIC GUITAR TEACHER (30) sits on a chair with his instrument, facing his seated STUDENT (11) in a tiny room with two amplifiers. Both are plugged in.

GUITAR TEACHER
Hello! So, this is your first lesson!
How are you??

STUDENT
Not bad, you?

GUITAR TEACHER
Great, thanks! Do you have any guitar
heroes?

STUDENT
Yep. David Gilmour...

GUITAR TEACHER
... An amazing player...

STUDENT
... Jeff Beck...

GUITAR TEACHER
Awesome!

STUDENT
... And Yngwie Malmsteen...

GUITAR TEACHER
Two great players! I can teach you to
play like them, if you work hard
enough...

The STUDENT screws his face up.

STUDENT
Two great players?

GUITAR TEACHER
Yep. Jeff Beck and David Gilmour are
epic!

STUDENT
What about Yngwie Malmsteen?

The TEACHER looks down, coughs and scratches his head. He is silent for a few seconds.

GUITAR TEACHER
Er. I don't know an Yngwie Bean,
sorry.

STUDENT
Are you sure, he's very famous, I mean...

The TEACHER shakes his head.

GUITAR TEACHER
(interrupting)
No, you've made him up.

STUDENT
I'm sorry??

The TEACHER gives a thumbs up.

GUITAR TEACHER
He doesn't exist. Now, as this is your first lesson, let's start simple. Do you know what a power chord is?

The STUDENT scratches his ear.

STUDENT
Do you have a mobile phone on you with the internet? You can search for him now, I don't mind... Actually, I have one...

The STUDENT reaches into his pocket.

GUITAR TEACHER
Ok, you got me. He exists. Now let's never talk of him again.

The STUDENT takes his empty hand out.

STUDENT
Why??

GUITAR TEACHER
He's a bad influence, that's why. In fact, he's rubbish.

STUDENT
I bet you can't play like him...

GUITAR TEACHER
I don't want to!

STUDENT
Have you heard of Michael Angelo?

GUITAR TEACHER
Oh dear God, no.

STUDENT

What?

GUITAR TEACHER

He's even worse!

STUDENT

Wouldn't it make more sense to teach me scales before power chords?

The TEACHER scoffs.

GUITAR TEACHER

Oh I bet you'd love that, wouldn't you?

STUDENT

What's that supposed to mean?

GUITAR TEACHER

That's all Yngwie ever does. Play scales. Well, he would if he even existed.

STUDENT

You're trying to convince me he doesn't exist, again?

GUITAR TEACHER

I think I know more about music than you.

STUDENT

I've actually tried playing the first shape of the minor scale...

The STUDENT plays 7 notes very slowly.

GUITAR TEACHER

Do that again, and I'll kill you.

STUDENT

What???

GUITAR TEACHER

You heard. Now play this...

The TEACHER plays a power chord.

STUDENT

No.

GUITAR TEACHER

Did you know Yngwie was heavily influenced by Deep Purple? How about I teach you some of their stuff?

The TEACHER plays 'Smoke on the Water.'

STUDENT
Can you speed that up a little?

The GUITAR TEACHER grits his teeth.

GUITAR TEACHER
I can slow down a little, so you can
learn it properly.

The GUITAR TEACHER does so.

STUDENT
(singing an improvised
melody over the
guitar)
I'm a viking... coming to slay the
dragon... going to save the day.

The GUITAR TEACHER stops playing.

GUITAR TEACHER
Was that supposed to be funny?

STUDENT
What?

GUITAR TEACHER
What??? The rubbish power metal
lyrics, that's what.

STUDENT
Would you rather I sung about smoke
or fire?

GUITAR TEACHER
How about not singing at all. Now try
to play what I play...

The GUITAR TEACHER plays the first chord of the SotW riff.

GUITAR TEACHER
See what I'm doing there?

STUDENT
(singing without
backing)
I'm so angry I'm on fire. Unleash the
fury!

GUITAR TEACHER
Unleash the fury? Is that REALLY who
look up to?

STUDENT

But YOU look like you're about to
unleash the fury...

GUITAR TEACHER

I'm not going to unleash the fury,
actually. I'm going to kick you out
of this room.

STUDENT

Sounds like unleashing the fury, to
me. And you want to kick me out for
singing rubbish lyrics?

GUITAR TEACHER

It's not just that, it's everything.
I simply can't teach someone like
you. Sorry.

STUDENT

I'll find another teacher, then...

GUITAR TEACHER

A teacher with no sense of melody,
you mean?

STUDENT

A teacher who is open minded...

GUITAR TEACHER

Ha!

The GUITAR TEACHER plays the minor scale over and over
again, then stops.

GUITAR TEACHER

(making quote marks
with his fingers)

I'm 'open minded'. Are you happy now?

STUDENT

Play faster, please.

The GUITAR TEACHER does so as he goes red.

STUDENT

(singing another
melody over the
guitar)

I'm driving faster than the speed of
light in my Ferrari, then I will slay
the goblins!!

The GUITAR TEACHER stops playing.

STUDENT

There we go! Our first ever jam session. And it was awesome!

GUITAR TEACHER

I never jammed with you. The thought alone makes me feel dirty. Take that back, now.

STUDENT

No.

GUITAR TEACHER

Then I'll have to end this lesson.

STUDENT

Will I still have to pay?

GUITAR TEACHER

Actually, you'll have to pay more.

STUDENT

Why?

GUITAR TEACHER

For the distress. Good day.

The STUDENT leaves the room.

GUITAR TEACHER

Whoops. Forgot to get my money off him. At least I'll never see him again. But what will he say about me? He'll probably say I insulted him and kept playing the minor scale, which is what happened, technically speaking.

The GUITAR TEACHER screams.

GUITAR TEACHER

NO!!!