



Thomas & Friends: Spills & Thrills is a bit of a faux pas in the title department. I personally would have titled it something more along the lines of Thomas & Friends: Bully Issues.

In this collection of Thomas episodes from the seventeenth season of the show, labeled Never Before Seen but probably meaning Never Before Seen in the States, you get six episodes that all pretty much deal with bullies and how the trains learn to cope with their bully's taunts with support from their friends.

In *Away From the Sea* we meet a new engine named Porter, a train that comes along to help pick up the workload for Salty when his engines begin to have trouble. Salty of course jumps to the conclusion that Porter is his replacement and begins to worry about his job and the opportunity to continue being a really useful engine.

Okay, so no bullying in that one, but wait for it.

In "The Smelly Kipper" James teases Percy about being afraid of the dark (bully tactics) and forces the issue until Percy decides to one up James by allowing him the opportunity to run the Flying Kipper for him that night. It's a decent episode that gives kids the old one, two approach to defeating bullies by challenging them to walk in someone else's shoes for a change.

Gone Fishing finds Harvey the Crane being teased by Bill and Ben because he has a hook attached to his arm. The two taunt him about his hook, asking if he's going fishing, which of course makes Harvey feel self conscious about his appearance. New engine Porter shows up in this episode as well.

The *Afternoon Tea Express* finds Stephen excited to be assigned to collecting tea for the Earl at the Castle but Spencer teases Stephen by telling him he's too old and slow. WOW! That's pretty hardcore for an episode of Thomas. Either way, Stephen and Spencer will learn from their episode.

Though the collection does have a lot of bullying going on it does show some effective ways to both deal with bullies as well as stop from feeling self conscious about yourself when you've got that kind of monkey on your back.

The set also includes 3 bonuses including the Biff Bash Bosh Game, Go! Go! Thomas! Karaoke Music Video and a Guess Who? Puzzle Game.

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