

INDEPENDENT LIVING

1X18

"April Fools"

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TEASER

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FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Aaron, Jack and Melissa are sitting on the couch watching TV.

AARON

I hate April Fools Day.

JACK

Let me guess something that happened to you in the past.

AARON

No I hate it because it's too easy to play jokes on people.

JACK

I know, I remember last year, remember how Amber pretended that she was pregnant.

AARON

No I think your confusing me with someone else.

JACK

No it was you and Amber.

AARON

No it wasn't.

MELISSA

Okay girls, it's okay, it doesn't matter who's pregnant, you or him.

AARON

This year I have an April Fools picked out for each of you.

MELISSA

Hey honey, if you do an April Fools joke on me, you no how you don't get none now, well you'll never get none.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AARON

Yes dear.

JACK

I haven't played an April Fools  
joke in years.

AARON

Well maybe this is your year.

JACK

Maybe, I don't know, I do know I  
have to get to class.

AARON

Me too.

Aaron and Jack try to get up but can't.

JACK

We're glued to our seats.

AARON

Oh if this couch is ruined, I  
swear I'll kill them.

MELISSA

What about my pair of pants.

Sarah, Jessica and Christine all wave from the door.

AARON

I'll kill them.

CHRISTINE

April Fools.

BLACK OUT.

END OF TEASER

**ACT ONE**

FADE IN:

INT. KINGSTON LOUNGE - MORNING

Aaron, Jack and Melissa sitting at booth drinking coffee.

MELISSA

So when do we get them back, we're going to get them back?

JACK

Calm down, we're going to get them back, right?

AARON

Oh yes, Christine, Sarah and Jessica are all dead as far as we're concerned.

JACK

You're not going to actually kill them, kill them are you?

AARON

No, but we are going to get them back, and in a big way.

MELISSA

Good because they ruined my jeans, and these are expensive jeans.

Jessica, Sarah and Christine walk in and sit with the gang.

SARAH

So are you guys ready to surrender April Fools yet?

MELISSA

You ruined my jeans.

JESSICA

Sorry about that, but you have to admit that it was a very funny joke.

JACK

Not really.

JESSICA

But you're usually the one who finds my jokes funny.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK

Not when you hurt my friends with your jokes.

AARON

That's okay, just wait, you know the saying.

SARAH

I know the saying, so you think you can pull a better April Fools joke than we can.

AARON

Any day, anytime.

SARAH

So three on three?

AARON

Battle of the sexiest?

SARAH

How's that fair, you have Melissa.

AARON

Melissa's with us.

JACK

That's right she's one of us.

AARON

Melissa, Jack and me taking on you three girly girls. Sounds like a crush to me.

SARAH

Well I guess we'll just have to wait and see.

AARON

I guess we will.

SARAH

But when we kick your pretty little butts, don't go crying to mommy.

AARON

I'm sorry, I couldn't hear you over the crying of defeat in your eyes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SARAH

We'll just see who is crying in  
the end.

AARON

Yes we shall, by the way, we have  
to go over to the arcade, can you  
watch our table for us? No joke.

SARAH

Sure.

Aaron, Jack and Melissa get up and leave.

WAITRESS

That will be twenty dollars.

SARAH

No, we're watching the table for  
our friends.

WAITRESS

They said you would be taking care  
of the bill.

SARAH

I'm going to kill them.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

**ACT TWO**

FADE IN:

INT. CAMPUS - RYAN AND DAN'S DORM - LATER

Ryan and Dan sitting on opposite sides of the room.

RYAN

Are you going to talk to me  
sometime in the near future?

DAN

I'm not sure yet, leave a message  
at the tone and I'll have to get  
back to you.

RYAN

Oh come on, we get in one fight  
and now we're not friends anymore.

DAN

No that's not it, you ruined my  
chance to ever date Veronica even  
if I wanted to because of the  
stupidity we pulled at the party.

RYAN

We got in one little fight, a  
fight that we won't even remember  
next week.

DAN

No I'll remember it next week, and  
the week after and the year after  
and when you have kids I'll make  
sure they remind there kids.

RYAN

Do you really have to take it that  
far.

DAN

Yes I do.

RYAN

Why?

DAN

Because, we have never fought like  
that, especially over one girl.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAN (cont'd)

I thought we were over the  
Veronica thing and somehow it just  
seems to come back up.

RYAN

What do you want me to say, that  
I'm sorry, that I'm an idiot?

DAN

You're not an idiot, at least your  
report cards don't show it.

RYAN

Then what do you want?

DAN

I don't know what I want you to  
do.

RYAN

Then how are we ever going to  
resolve this.

DAN

I don't know if this can be  
resolved.

RYAN

This isn't that major.

DAN

Maybe to you it's not, but this  
could of have broke us up.

RYAN

We'll never break up.

DAN

How do you know we'll never break  
up.

RYAN

I just know, we're best friends.

DAN

Best friends can still break up.

RYAN

You're making this way too big.

DAN

No you're not letting it be as big  
as it is.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

RYAN

No you are over-reacting about nothing.

DAN

Nothing, you call this nothing, wow, you must be like the most important person in the world, why are we even talking about this, it's always the same with you, never have you even apologized for what happened at the party, look let's just take a break okay.

RYAN

Whatever you want Dan, but I'm not the one that caused this.

DAN

But I'm the one ending it.

INT. KINGSTON LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS

Amber and Veronica talking.

VERONICA

I thought that this whole thing between Ryan and Dan and myself was over and now it comes back up.

AMBER

I don't know what to tell you.

VERONICA

Well I know I can't go back to that dorm room.

AMBER

Why not?

VERONICA

Because.

AMBER

Because why?

VERONICA

How would you feel, you live with two guys that just fought over you and tried to pull you into two people.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMBER

That's true, I'm an idiot.

VERONICA

The sad thing being is that I graduate in less than a month, and I have no where to live because of the two idiots.

AMBER

Hey well if you want to here something exciting, Sarah wants us to help her with an April Fools joke on Aaron and Jack.

VERONICA

I'm confused, what's going on with that whole situation.

AMBER

Well in Aaron's world, there having an April Fools joke war.

VERONICA

What else is new?

AMBER

I'm telling you.

VERONICA

You know that's what I need.

AMBER

What do you need?

VERONICA

I need to have fun all the time like they do.

AMBER

Like who does?

VERONICA

Who were we just talking about?

AMBER

Aaron.

VERONICA

Right your ex-boyfriend.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AMBER

I know, I look back on that situation now and laugh about it.

VERONICA

I think you need help sometimes.

AMBER

What?

VERONICA

Never mind.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Christine and Aaron sitting on the couch.

CHRISTINE

You know what you guys did at Kingston Lounge wasn't funny.

AARON

I thought it was sweet payback.

CHRISTINE

Yeah, but you only made Sarah a lot more mad than she was.

AARON

Oh who cares about Sarah, she's not even really in with the whole tradition of our April Fools jokes war.

CHRISTINE

What are you talking about.

AARON

Well you and Jack and Amber have been with us for years with the whole April Fools day war with me, but Sarah and Melissa, they don't really have a mark yet on it.

CHRISTINE

So you're saying that they don't belong.

AARON

No I'm saying they don't fit in. Jessica fits in more than they do.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHRISTINE

But Melissa's your girlfriend.

AARON

I know this, I'm telling you this because I know I can trust you.

CHRISTINE

So you're saying this is the last April Fools war.

AARON

That's what I'm saying, I'm going to throw in the white flag, it's just not fun anymore.

CHRISTINE

Well you better hurry before Sarah does what she wants to do.

AARON

What does she want to do.

CHRISTINE

She wants to make Melissa think she's pregnant.

AARON

But we've never done anything.

CHRISTINE

The point is not with you but with Jack.

AARON

But they've never done anything.

CHRISTINE

That's the point of the joke.

AARON

But that's not funny.

CHRISTINE

That's what makes it funny.

AARON

I'm not understanding.

CHRISTINE

We have stop it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Right. AARON

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT TWO

**ACT THREE**

FADE IN:

INT. CAMPUS - AMBER'S DORM - NIGHT

Amber is reading on her bed when Veronica walks in.

AMBER

Hey you look like hell.

VERONICA

Well I've been staying at my  
parents house for the past few  
days.

AMBER

I'm guessing you have a big  
family.

VERONICA

No I just have a big dad.

AMBER

I don't want to know.

VERONICA

Look I know this is asking a lot,  
but is there anyway I could stay  
here tonight.

AMBER

Sure, you should have come to me  
sooner, my roommate moved out like  
two weeks ago.

VERONICA

That's funny, I don't remember you  
having a roommate.

AMBER

Me neither, maybe that's why she  
moved out, she was never here.

VERONICA

Which would be a good reason, she  
probably never went to class.

AMBER

You can stay here as long as you  
need too.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VERONICA

Thanks.

AMBER

Hey what are friends for.

INT. CAMPUS - RYAN AND DAN'S DORM - CONTINUOUS

Ryan and Dan are sitting on opposite sides of the room still.

RYAN

Okay I'm tired of this, we need to talk this out.

DAN

What's the rush, all we're going to do is fight about it any ways.

RYAN

Right, but there's a small detail we're forgetting about.

DAN

There is?

RYAN

Yeah, we live together, remember?

DAN

Oh yeah, we do don't we.

RYAN

Yeah, we do.

DAN

Okay so we have to talk.

RYAN

So how do we do this, do you begin or do I begin?

DAN

I'm not really sure, I've never been in this situation before.

RYAN

I'm going to look in the manual real quick.

Ryan picks up a book next to him and opens it and then closes it and puts it down.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAN  
Bad or good news?

RYAN  
Crap, the manual says I have to start.

DAN  
That's a relief.

RYAN  
Okay fine, I'll start.

DAN  
Okay then.

RYAN  
Look, I'm not sure how any of this really happened, I'm not even sure I still like Veronica.

DAN  
Your not?

RYAN  
Not really.

DAN  
Then how come we fought over her?

RYAN  
I'm not sure, I mean yes, I have this feeling for her in my heart, and yes I like her as a friend.

DAN  
That's the same with me.

RYAN  
Will you hold on I'm on a roll right now.

DAN  
Sorry.

RYAN  
I think that we both know that deep down we have feelings for Veronica.

DAN  
I'll agree with that.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

RYAN

I don't know why we let it affect our lives though.

DAN

I couldn't tell you.

RYAN

Maybe it's because we really want to hurt each other inside.

DAN

That's funny.

RYAN

Look, I don't want to break up.

DAN

Me neither, I mean your my best friend.

RYAN

Your mine too.

DAN

Then we can't let this fight affect us.

RYAN

But how can't we let it affect us.

DAN

We need to confront Veronica.

RYAN

We need to face it, Veronica is never coming back.

DAN

Why do you say that?

RYAN

Because she took all of her stuff with her.

DAN

That's why the room looks so empty.

RYAN

I know, I just noticed that a few hours ago.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DAN

You two, I was trying to think why it looked so empty.

RYAN

Okay we're getting off subject.

DAN

I know, I'm just having a bad year, I mean knowing that you don't want to come back next year and not knowing what my future holds.

RYAN

I think the thing that hit us the most is when Veronica moved in.

DAN

Maybe with Veronica gone, we'll become better friends again.

RYAN

Look I just want to say I'm sorry for giving you that black eye.

DAN

And I'm sorry for giving you that fat lip.

RYAN

And I'm sorry for giving you that bad knee.

DAN

You didn't give that to me?

RYAN

What?

DAN

Yeah, I tripped over a passed out person at the party, that's how I got that.

RYAN

Oh, well I'm sorry you tripped over him then.

DAN

I love you man.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

RYAN

I love you too man.

Ryan and Dan hug.

DAN

Let's never fight again.

RYAN

Agreed.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

**ACT FOUR**

FADE IN:

INT. CAMPUS - MELISSA'S DORM - DAY

Melissa is in her dorm room with a pregnancy test next to her with a letter from Jack and Sarah sitting next to her.

MELISSA

There's no way that I could have done that.

SARAH

I'm telling you, you were so drunk at the party that you and Jack got hot and heavy.

MELISSA

But I wouldn't do that to Aaron.

SARAH

I'm not mad, it's just now Jack and I have a son or daughter to raise with you.

MELISSA

Hold on, what makes you think I'd ever let you raise my kid.

SARAH

Well because Jack and I are together.

MELISSA

Right but if my life is going to be ruined, then why shouldn't I just take Jack off your hands.

SARAH

Because I'm with Jack.

MELISSA

So I'm with Aaron, we'll switch.

SARAH

What?

MELISSA

You can have Aaron, and I'll take Jack.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARAH

This isn't how this is suppose to go.

MELISSA

How what's suppose to go?

SARAH

Nothing, I'm just talking to myself.

MELISSA

Oh you mean this isn't how you want things to go.

SARAH

That's it.

MELISSA

Well sometimes we don't always get our way.

SARAH

You're right, we don't.

MELISSA

Like sometimes, an April Fools joke doesn't go as planned.

SARAH

What? What April Fools joke?

MELISSA

The pregnant with Jack's kid one.

SARAH

How do you know about this?

MELISSA

I got a little phone call about a half hour before you got here.

SARAH

Okay so I'm bad at jokes.

MELISSA

No but I know myself better than that, I love Aaron and I didn't even drink at the party.

SARAH

You tipped you off?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MELISSA

Actually it was one of your own teammates.

SARAH

What?

MELISSA

Yeah.

Aaron and Christine come out of the closet.

CHRISTINE

Sorry Sarah, but I couldn't let you go through with this joke.

AARON

This was kind of low.

SARAH

I know, but I always here about how good your jokes are Aaron, and I thought that I need to try to beat yours in order to be accepted.

AARON

You are one of us, but I love Melissa, instead of working against each other, next year we should all work as a team against people we don't know.

SARAH

I'm sorry, I don't know what I was thinking, but betrayed by my own teammate?

CHRISTINE

Sorry Sarah, but I couldn't let you hurt Aaron like this.

MELISSA

Not only that, but you'd be hurting your own boyfriend, how do you think he'd feel?

SARAH

Okay I admit, I wasn't thinking when I planned this joke out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MELISSA

Well what makes a good April fools  
joker, is when you plan out the  
joke and make sure there are no  
one that is hurt by it.

AARON

Look I've been thinking about this  
for a few years now, and I think  
I'm turning in my April Fools joke  
badge.

MELISSA

How come?

AARON

Well I'm getting older and it's  
time to stop the child things.

MELISSA

But April Fools war isn't  
childish, actually I got a kick  
out of it.

AARON

You did?

MELISSA

Yeah I did, that's what I love  
about you, you make me laugh and  
happy.

SARAH

You do, you take the smallest  
holiday and make it into a big  
holiday.

MELISSA

And that's what the best thing  
about you is.

AARON

So you would want to do this again  
next year?

MELISSA

In a heartbeat, and if you don't  
want to I'll give you an April  
Fools joke you won't forget.

AARON

No one can beat me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

MELISSA  
But we can try.

AARON  
You can try.

MELISSA  
Happy April Fools.

AARON  
You too.

MELISSA  
But who should tell everyone else  
the day is over.

AARON  
Who else?

MELISSA  
Jack and Jessica.

AARON  
Just let them continue the day.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY (TAG SCENE)

Jessica is setting a joke with the phone line.

JESSICA  
You know I wonder where the hell  
the rest of my team is, they would  
love this joke.

Jack comes walking in.

JACK  
What are you doing in my  
apartment?

JESSICA  
Nothing.

JACK  
Are you sure nothing?

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

JESSICA  
I'm dead serious.

JACK  
Speaking of dead, have you seen  
the newspaper sitting on the table  
above your head.

JESSICA  
No, why?

JACK  
Just read it.

Jessica picks up the paper off the table and reads out loud.

JESSICA  
This morning a women by the name  
of Jessica Cambridge was found  
dead at the plot of an April Fools  
joke. This is not a false report.  
Also Jack Vander was found guilty  
of the murder.

JACK  
What, that shouldn't be there.

JESSICA  
It says it right here.

JACK  
I had that made myself this  
morning, let me see that.

Jessica hands him the paper.

JESSICA  
By the way, April Fools, I already  
saw it, and had it re-printed.

JACK  
I hate you.

Jack walks out.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW