INDEPENDENT LIVING

1X10

“All I Want For Christmas Is A Girlfriend”

Story by
Aaron Bielert

Written by
Aaron Bielert

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FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Aaron sitting on the couch.

AARON
Can you believe I have one day to pick a girlfriend. That’s right, incase you missed the last episode let me refresh you on what happened.

CUT TO:

INT. MCELROY’S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Aaron and Melissa sitting at table eating.

AARON
Okay fine, look, we’ve been seeing each other for about a month now and in that one month, I’ve gotten to know a lot about you and you’ve gotten to know me too, they may have not been the best month but I’ve learned about you and your life and I thought that it was time that we take it to the next step, I thought we should be exclusive, would you be my girlfriend?

MELISSA
Aaron you know my answer already, you know that I’m in love with you, I wouldn’t have stuck around with you being all crazy like you are with the whole Amber thing if I didn’t.
INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Aaron sitting on the couch.

AARON
Well that was only the beginning because after that my whole life got turned upside down.

CUT TO:

INT. KINGSTON LOUNGE - NIGHT

Aaron and Amber in bathroom hallway with Melissa sitting at table.

AARON
This is not seeming important, so you have about twenty seconds before I walk back to my table.

AMBER
I want us to start over and get back together.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Aaron sitting on couch.

AARON
And that wasn’t even the beginning because then I found out that Sarah, yes that’s right my roommate Sarah likes me too, but then things got even worse for me.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Aaron and Melissa sitting on the couch

(CONTINUED)
MELISSA
Well until you make your choice, you know where I’ll be but I’m only giving you until Christmas to make it.

AARON
How am I suppose to make my decision by then, that’s in just a few days.

MELISSA
Well I guess you better figure it out real quick.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Aaron sitting on the couch.

AARON
And this is where I am today, one day before Christmas, Christmas Eve and I haven’t even come close to making my decision.

BLACK OUT.

END OF TEASER
ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. KINGSTON LOUNGE - DAY

Aaron and Jack sitting down at a table drinking coffee

AARON
What am I supposed to do? Who am I suppose to choose, how do I start to choose?

JACK
I don’t know on this one man, This is a hard decision, but Melissa does love you, but on the other hand Amber and you have history.

AARON
I don’t even know where to start, the day before Christmas dinner at my mom’s at that.

JACK
I don’t even know what to tell you.

AARON
I’m ready to just pick a name out of a hat.

JACK
Okay well let’s weigh the odds okay, I’m going to ask you a question and you tell me the first girl that comes to mind.

AARON
Okay that sounds good.

JACK
Who makes you laugh, who can make you happy when skies are gray type stuff.

AARON
All three of them.
JACK
Okay never mind this is going to be too hard a decision for this game.

AARON
Now you know where I’m coming from when I say this is a really tough decision.

JACK
I’d tell you to just be with the one who loves you, love is from the heart and they will treat you with what you deserve.

AARON
Maybe you’re right, I’ll think about what you just said.

JACK
No problem man.

INT. CAMPUS - AMBER’S DORM - CONTINUOUS

Amber and Christine sitting on bed talking.

AMBER
I can’t believe it, Christmas Eve and he still hasn’t made his decision, how hard can it be, We have a history together, it should be a no contest.

CHRISTINE
Have you ever thought that maybe, just maybe he has feelings for the other two also.

AMBER
Other two, I thought it was just me and Melissa.

CHRISTINE
It is, I messed up sorry.

AMBER
No you didn’t, who else wants Aaron?

(CONTINUED)
CHRISTINE
Okay fine there are three, you, Melissa and Sarah.

AMBER
Sarah wants Aaron too.

CHRISTINE
I guess Aaron’s like the most popular guy right now, everybody wants him.

AMBER
He’s not going to choose anyone is he?

CHRISTINE
I think that this is a very tough decision for him and it’s going to take him a lot of time.

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

Dan, Ryan and Veronica sitting around on the floor.

DAN
So what time do we have to be at Jack’s?

RYAN
Well Christine said to be there at four but dinner won’t be until about five or six.

DAN
Okay so we have time to watch football then right.

VERONICA
Dan, Christmas isn’t about football, it’s about getting stuff.

RYAN
Wow, you are all caught up on the spirit aren’t we

VERONICA
I’m sorry but I have always been spoiled on Christmas.

(CONTINUED)
Continued:

Ryan
Well tomorrow we shall see what you get.

Veronica
I hate that you guys put a fifty dollar spending limit on gifts.

Ryan
Well to us Christmas is more than just gifts, it’s about being with people that you love.

Black out.

End of Act One
ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. CAMPUS - MELISSA'S DORM - LATER

Melissa is sitting on bed crying when Aaron comes walking in.

AARON
Hey Melissa, honey what’s wrong?

MELISSA
Nothing, what are you doing here?

AARON
Well I think I’ve made my decision and I want to let you know to be at my house tonight at eight so I can let everybody know what I have chose.

MELISSA
It’s not good is it?

AARON
I don’t know if it’s good or not but it is what I want, and I want everybody to respect what I want.

MELISSA
I love you no matter what it is.

AARON
I know you do.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Aaron standing with Melissa, Amber, and Sarah sitting on couch.

AARON
Okay I’ve called you all here tonight because I have an announcement to make. I have decided who I want to be with.

SARAH
So who is it?

AARON
Well this was a very hard decision to make but Jack helped me make it and now I know it is the right decision.

SARAH
But who is it?

AARON
Look I care about all of you, but I only love one of you, and you’ve been there through all of the bad times so far.

AMBER
I knew you’d pick me.

AARON
Melissa, I love you, I want to be with you.

AMBER
You pick Melissa over me.

AARON
Yes I did, I love Melissa, I’m sorry.
That’s okay it was a long shot any ways, plus we did break up, but why Melissa.

Because she loves me and I realized that I love her too. But hold on before we all get mad at Aaron, Melissa I have a question for you, would you like to come with me to my parents house for Christmas dinner?

Yes I would honey, I love you.

Well I only have one thing to say to this, let’s get to bed so we can wake up for Christmas tomorrow.

Hey I’ll second that one.

Good night guys, I’m going to go with Melissa back to her place.

Aaron and Melissa leave.

EXT. A STREET - LATER

Aaron and Melissa walking through snow on the sidewalk.

I’m sorry I made you go through that, I promise for now on that we will be better prepared for those kind of situations.

I’m just happy that you made the right decision, I knew you would.

What do you mean?
MELISSA
Well the whole thing a few days ago with the you have until Christmas Day to make your decision thing, I knew if I put pressure on you that you would make the right decision instead of rushing to conclusions.

AARON
So you set me up in other words.

MELISSA
I just wanted to see if you’d make the right choice that’s all.

AARON
Well did I make the right choice.

MELISSA
I don’t know, I mean I’m a really bad girl on Christmas Eve.

AARON
What do you mean a bad girl?

MELISSA
Well I just guess you’ll have to come back to my dorm room and find out.

AARON
I guess I will.

INT. CAMPUS – MELISSA’S DORM – MORNING
Aaron waking up on the floor and Melissa in the bed.

AARON
Okay what happened last night and why am I on the floor and not in the bed with you?

MELISSA
You passed out on the floor while we were designing Christmas cards.

AARON
So nothing happened else last night?

(CONTINUED)
MELISSA
If you are talking about sex, then no.

AARON
Okay good. Oh shoot what time is it, we have to be at my mom’s in a few hours.

MELISSA
It’s about nine in the morning, by the way, Merry Christmas.

AARON
You two, we have to be at my mom’s at two.

MELISSA
Okay no problem.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER
Jack, Sarah and Christine all cleaning up the place when Ryan, Dan and Veronica come in through the door.

VERONICA
Merry Christmas, guys.

CHRISTINE
Merry Christmas to you too.

RYAN
So where’s the grub at.

JACK
You guys are like four hours early.

DAN
We prefer the early bird special.

VERONICA
We got a call this morning from Christine asking if any of us knew how to cook a ham.

JACK
I don’t know how, you don’t Christine?

(CONTINUED)
CHRISTINE
No, I have no idea how to cook a ham. You guys?

RYAN
None of us know how to cook at all, Sarah?

SARAH
No clue.

Amber comes walking in the door.

CHRISTINE
Hey sis, do you know how to cook a ham?

AMBER
Me know how to cook, do I look like I took cooking class?

CHRISTINE
Good point, well now what, none of us know how to cook the ham.

JACK
Well we better find out how to real quick because I have something I need to tell everyone.

SARAH
We don’t want to hear this do we?

JACK
Well it’s better that you hear it now than later.

SARAH
This is going to be bad.

JACK
See I felt bad for Professor Daniels, so I kind of invited Professor Daniels to dinner.

SARAH
Which one did you invite?

JACK
See that’s a real funny thing.

SARAH
Which one did you invite Jack?
JACK
Don’t kill me, both.

SARAH
We’re dead, we are so dead.

CHRISTINE
How can we feed nine people when we don’t even know how to cook a ham?

VERONICA
Well you know what, we’re sure going to learn how to real quick because this is Christmas and it’s the time of being with one another, so let me into that kitchen.

CHRISTINE
That’s the spirit honey.

VERONICA
I just didn’t know what else to say to try to pump everyone up.

SARAH
Any ideas of what we can all do?

VERONICA
Yes, why don’t Amber and I work on the ham, Sarah, why don’t you and Christine work on the potatoes and you guys can finish cleaning up if that isn’t too hard.

JACK
Not too hard at all.

RYAN
Hey let’s get started.

INT. AARON’S MOM’S HOUSE – LATER
Aaron and Melissa walking into the house when Aaron’s sister Stephanie runs down the stairs.

STEPHANIE
You’re here already, who’s this? This doesn’t look like Amber.

(CONTINUED)
AARON
That’s because it isn’t Amber, Amber and I broke up, remember?

STEPHANIE
Oh yeah, so who is this hottie?

AARON
This is my girlfriend, Melissa.

STEPHANIE
Nice to meet you Melissa.

AARON
Melissa, this is my annoying sister, younger sister, Stephanie.

MELISSA
Nice to meet you Stephanie. And may I say you’re a hottie too.

STEPHANIE
Thanks, she’s a keeper.

AARON
Thanks any ways, where’s mom?

STEPHANIE
Oh she’s out running errands and won’t be back until about five, she wants you and I to finish cooking dinner.

AARON
You and I cook, we can’t cook.

STEPHANIE
Hey I took cooking classes last semester.

AARON
Okay then you can cook, and I’ll watch.

MELISSA
Aaron, don’t treat your sister like that, I think it would be fun to cook.

STEPHANIE
Why are you with him?
MELISSA
Because I love your brother.

STEPHANIE
Wow you two need help.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT THREE
ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - KITCHEN - LATER

Veronica and Amber are reading the ham.

VERONICA
I don’t get these hams, they don’t even say how to put them in the microwave, it says conventional oven, we don’t have one of those, we have a regular oven but not one of those.

AMBER
I get it, the ham is made in some other country.

VERONICA
Why would they sell it in the United States if it was from another country.

AMBER
Well because everything has microwave instructions on it.

VERONICA
Well we’re just going to make it in the oven and adapt to what we think it should be cooked for.

AMBER
Okay how long should we cook it for?

VERONICA
Well it says here three hours, but that’s probably a much more powerful oven and it says four fifty so let’s go with five hundred for five hours.

AMBER
Okay sounds good.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jack, Dan and Ryan sitting on couch watching football.

(CONTINUED)
JACK
See the women are cooking and we are free to watch the game.

DAN
This is suppose to be a good game also.

RYAN
I didn’t want to miss this game, oh come on run you jackass, see that, the defense is all over that guy, I could get in there and run faster and score than he can.

DAN
It’s just a game, he’s doing what he can, remember he earns millions for just showing up.

RYAN
I know what’s wrong with that, I show up to class all the time and don’t get a dime.

JACK
Maybe you should call the college on that one, tell them you want paid for going to class.

DAN
Yeah, you might get it within a million years.

RYAN
Funny guys, make fun of the thinker.

INT. AARON’S MOM’S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Aaron, Melissa and Stephanie sitting at the kitchen table watching TV.

AARON
I never understood why they played football on Christmas.

MELISSA
It’s all about money, they get paid good money to play on a day like this.
CONTINUED:

STEPHANIE
We weren’t allowed to watch football on holidays growing up.

MELISSA
Well how old are you any ways.

STEPHANIE
I’m a senior in high school, I’m sixteen, I skipped the third grade.

MELISSA
Really smart I’m guessing?

STEPHANIE
No they messed up the paperwork.

AARON
See why I’m happy I live in my own apartment with my friends.

STEPHANIE
Well I’ll be going to school with you again next year.

AARON
Not if I can help it, one little call and you aren’t getting in.

MELISSA
Why don’t you want your little sister going to school with you.

AARON
We did for three years, it was hell, they shouldn’t put siblings in the same school.

MELISSA
Hey my sister and I loved being in the same school, she wants to come out here and go with us when she graduates in two years.

AARON
I thought you were an only child.

MELISSA
I am an only child, I’m talking about my step sister in my step dads side. We didn’t have a choice but to get along.

(MORE)
CONTINUED: (2)

MELISSA (cont’d)
We have the same first name at least different last names though.

AARON
That’s always the good thing.

MELISSA
Where is your mom?

AARON
I don’t know.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jack and Ryan sitting on ouch watching TV when both Professor Daniels come in through the front door.

JACK
Hey were so glad you could make it.

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
Well we didn’t think we would at first, there’s so much snow on the ground.

PROFESSOR S. DANIELS
So how is the break treating you kids.

JACK
Not much to do, you overwhelmed us with homework to do over the break.

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
You gave them homework over the break.

PROFESSOR S. DANIELS
Well yes, I figured that it would give them something to do and we can keep schooling and they could keep learning even when they don’t have too.

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
Well my Christmas present to you is no homework, I don’t give my students homework over a three week break.

(CONTINUED)
RYAN
See this is why I don’t take Math this year, I was warned about all of this before the school year.

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
How’s dinner coming?

RYAN
Do I smell something burning?

Ryan and Jack run into the kitchen where smoke is coming out of the oven and Veronica opens the oven to see a black ham.

VERONICA
Well who likes dark meat?

RYAN
How long did you cook the ham for?

VERONICA
Well the instructions said that a conventional oven is two hours, I figured this kind of oven would be about five.

JACK
Veronica if I may be blunt, that is a conventional oven.

VERONICA
I beg your pardon.

JACK
Yeah, that’s a conventional oven, it’s a regular oven.

RYAN
Now what?

VERONICA
Well Christine, Amber and Sarah went to the store to get dessert.

RYAN
We have guests out there who want dinner.

VERONICA
We could call Amber and tell them to pick up dinner.

(CONTINUED)
RYAN
Now what, any ideas Jack?

JACK
None, we are finished.

Professor J. Daniels walks into the kitchen.

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
Wow, what happened in here.

JACK
Veronica burned, well we’ll say torched the ham.

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
I can see, well it’s good we brought another ham with us.

RYAN
You guys brought a spare ham with you?

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
You didn’t actually think we thought you could cook did you?

JACK
Yes.

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
We figured you invited us because you wanted us to cook.

JACK
No, we invited you so that you can spend Christmas with people who care about you, what Christmas is about.

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
Well let’s get that ham out of there and get this one put in there.

VERONICA
How do you suppose we get this ham out of there?

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
That’s a good question, maybe we should just order out.

(CONTINUED)
VERONICA
That might be a good idea.

JACK
Everybody like Chinese?

RYAN
Yeah Chinese.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A table is set up in the middle with nine chairs around it a
red cloth on it and Chinese food all around on it with Amber,
Jack, Christine, Sarah, Veronica, Ryan, Dan and both Professor
Daniels sitting at the table.

SARAH
So as we sit here in front of our
lovely Chinese Christmas dinner,
who wants to say grace?

CHRISTINE
How did this happen any ways?

JACK
Veronica burned the ham.

VERONICA
Thanks guys, just point me right
out.

AMBER
I’ll say grace.

VERONICA
That sounds good.

AMBER
Dear Lord, we thank you today, on
this Christmas day for bringing us
all together here with this lovely
Chinese food in front of us, amen.

RYAN
Let’s dig in. Someone pass me the
spare ribs.

They all start passing food around, when Aaron, Melissa and
Stephanie walk in.

SARAH
What are you guys doing here.
AARON
Have room for a few more people?

JACK
What happened at your mom’s?

STEPHANIE
Mom got stuck at work and we burned the ham.

RYAN
So did we. Who are you.

AARON
This is my sister Stephanie.

CHRISTINE
I’ll go get more chairs.

AARON
Don’t worry about, we can sit on the couch, just start passing the grub, we’re starving.

MELISSA
Merry Christmas guys.

AMBER
Merry Christmas Melissa, here have some Chinese food.

Amber passes a plate to Melissa. Aaron sits down on the couch.

AARON
Merry Christmas from the cast of Independent Living and Happy Holidays.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW