INDEPENDENT LIVING

1X18

“April Fools”

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Written by
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TEASER

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)
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)
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.
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)
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)
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.
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.
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.
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)

AARON

Right.

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)
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)
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)
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)
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)
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)
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)
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)
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.
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