INDEPENDENT LIVING

1X14

“Big Trouble?”

Story by
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Written by
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FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Aaron, Jack and Christine sitting on couch talking.

AARON
This is really bad.

CHRISTINE
Why would you have Jessica over after what Sarah told you.

JACK
I don’t know what I was thinking. Jessica said she would be gone by the time you guys got back and then bang, you guys were here. I don’t know what went wrong.

AARON
Well something went wrong, I think that’s the last time we have a party for a very long time.

JACK
So how did your dinner go with Melissa?

AARON
I got the cold shoulder for most of the night, she kept questioning why I would let Jessica in and why I would not talk you into her going home.

JACK
Twenty questions?

AARON
You think. C’mon you think otherwise.

JACK
It wouldn’t surprise me.

(CONTINUED)
CHRISTINE
So you got the bitch side just for being there?

AARON
Why is this so hard to comprehend?

JACK
This is Melissa we’re talking about.

AARON
Look she’s okay now, she’s no longer mad at me, but I think Sarah’s a little more than mad at you Jack.

JACK
Yeah, I screwed up, really bad at that.

AARON
Hey we all make mistakes, it’s just how we deal with them that determines the outcome of them.

JACK
You’re right, I’m going to go down to Kingston Lounge right now and make everything better.

Jack gets up and walks out the front door.

CHRISTINE
He has no chance of everything being better.

AARON
I know.

INT. KINGSTON LOUNGE - MORNING
Sarah is sitting at table with her work uniform on as Jack comes walking up to her and sits down at table.

JACK
Hey are you still mad at me?

SARAH
What do you really think, use your brain.

(CONTINUED)
JACK
I’ll take that as a yes.

SARAH
I don’t know what you expect me to think or even do after this one.

JACK
I don’t know what you think happened. Nothing happened.

SARAH
I understand that, but I told you not to see her anymore or we had to end, now I have to decide what to do.

JACK
Do nothing, I’m sorry, you’re sorry, all’s better.

SARAH
It doesn’t work that way, you think this is one big joke don’t you?

JACK
No, I know that you’re very serious.

SARAH
Look, just give me time to make my decision.

BLACK OUT.

END OF TEASER
ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Aaron and Melissa are watching Television, while sitting on the couch.

MELISSA
So what time is everybody suppose to be home?

AARON
Who cares, why does it matter?

MELISSA
Because I want to buy tickets to the Sarah and Jack fight.

AARON
Well that fight is over, I think, I’ll let you know how much front row seats are.

Doorbell rings, and Aaron gets up and answers the door to see Stacy Werwig standing at it.

STACY
Hey Aaron, long time.

MELISSA
Who’s at the door sweetheart?

AARON
It’s nobody.

MELISSA
Nobody doesn’t talk.

STACY
I’m not disturbing you am I? What is she your girlfriend.

Stacy walks into the apartment and sits down on the chair.

AARON
Just come in and make yourself comfortable. Why are you here?

MELISSA
Who is this?

(CONTINUED)
STACY
Hi, I’m Stacy, Aaron’s long time ex-girlfriend from high school.

AARON
Long, long time ago.

STACY
Well it was only about three years ago.

AARON
Only three years ago, it seems like decades ago.

MELISSA
I believe she said three years ago.

STACY
I’m sure he talks about me all the time.

MELISSA
Actually he has never really mentioned you at all, never.

STACY
Really, wow, that’s weird.

AARON
No it’s not, it’s really not, go home now, please, why are you here?

MELISSA
I would love to know all about who you are.

AARON
No you wouldn’t, she’s so much of the past, she doesn’t exist anymore.

MELISSA
Then why is she here sitting on your chair.

STACY
I’m guessing you don’t live here, I don’t even know your name yet.
MELISSA
My names Melissa Stevens, and no I live on campus in a dorm room, by myself.

AARON
Well since I’m not even in this conversation, I might as well not even be here, see you guys later.

Aaron gets and leaves.

MELISSA
Well where you do you live?

STACY
I live in Middleburg Heights with my parents and brother. I go to Middlebrook High School, I’m a senior.

MELISSA
Why are you here instead of school?

STACY
I never thanked Aaron for what he did for me last time I saw him and wanted to say thanks, and we don’t have school today.

MELISSA
We should go get lunch, I know this great coffee shop called Kingston Lounge down the street.

STACY
Sounds good.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. CAMPUS - AMBER’S DORM - LATER

Sarah walks in to the room with Amber laying on her bed reading.

SARAH
Hey Amber, you have a few minutes?

AMBER
I’ve got a couple, why?

SARAH
It’s about me and Jack, I know you’ve known Jack for a long time.

AMBER
Look I know what he did already, Christine told me last night, I don’t know what to tell you.

SARAH
Well I don’t know if us being together is good anymore.

AMBER
Look for what I’ve known of Jack over the years I’ve known him, he doesn’t like being told what to do, but he makes mistakes too, he just wants to do his own thing.

SARAH
Thanks.

INT. KINGSTON LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS

Aaron and Jack sitting at booth talking when Ryan and Dan come walking in and sit down with them at the booth.

RYAN
Hey any news on the Jack and Sarah situation.

JACK
I’m here aren’t I?

(CONTINUED)
DAN
Is that a good or bad thing though?

JACK
That I’m here?

DAN
That you’re here and not with Sarah.

JACK
I don’t know. At least it’s not as bad as Aaron’s situation.

RYAN
Now what is wrong with Aaron?

AARON
I just have some female problems.

RYAN
Female problems?

AARON
Well remember Stacy?

RYAN
Yeah, why what happened?

AARON
Well she kind of showed up today and now her and Melissa are actually getting along.

RYAN
That’s really bad news, not.

AARON
How isn’t that bad news.

DAN
Dude, that’s good news, your ex and your current getting along, that’s like a dream, no questions about ex relationships anymore, no more secrets.

AARON
So that’s a good thing?
RYAN
I think Dan’s saying it is and I agree, he took the words right out of my mouth.

AARON
Yeah, but five months ago, I thought that Stacy was out of my life and that’s quite frankly the way I wanted and liked it.

RYAN
Sometimes things happen for a reason.

AARON
How is this happening for a reason?

DAN
Maybe you haven’t seen the reason yet.

AARON
No I know the reason, God hates me and wants to see me suffer. At least you’re lucky Jack, you don’t have this problem.

JACK
No I have worse problems, which in part is your fault too.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT
Aaron, Jack, Sarah, and Stacy sitting around the living room.

AARON
So what time are you leaving Stacy, because I don’t even know if you’ve noticed, but I didn’t invite you here.

SARAH
You know Jack I’ve been doing some thinking about our situation and I’ve come to my decision.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

STACY
Well actually that’s what I wanted
to talk to you about, I was
thinking about staying for a
while.

SARAH
Jack, I think I should move out.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT TWO
FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Aaron, Jack, Sarah and Stacy sitting around the room.

JACK
Did you just say that you think you should move out?

SARAH
Yes, I just don’t think that living here with us being together is a good idea anymore.

JACK
How isn’t it a good idea?

SARAH
Well with Jessica living, right there, I don’t even know if we should be together anymore, You must have feelings for her.

AARON
Hey guys, if your fighting could wait for a second, I need to freak out for a second, What do you mean you’re wanting to stay for a while?

STACY
I’m having some problems at home right now and want to stay here for a while. Besides Melissa thought it would be a great idea.

AARON
Melissa also thinks that men shouldn’t use hair spray. There is no justice in anything that Melissa says...

   (doorbell rings)

Now what the hell?

Jack goes and opens the door to have Jessica standing at it.

JESSICA
Hey, we need to talk.
CONTINUED:

JACK
You know right now is not really a good time, I’m kind of in the middle of a few things right now.

JESSICA
Look, I need to say I’m not sorry for the problems between you and Sarah, I really like you Jack.

JACK
Right now is not a good time.

Sarah walks over to the door next to Jack.

SARAH
I’m sorry, I don’t mean to be ease dropping, but did you just say you like Jack?

JACK
Sarah, right now is not a good time for any of this. Can’t we do this later? Like in three years when we graduate?

SARAH
You know I thought you were worth my time, I guess I was wrong. I’ll see you later.

Sarah walks out the door.

JESSICA
Did I come at a bad time?

INT. KINGSTON LOUNGE - LATER

Amber and Veronica sitting at booth when Sarah comes rushing in there and sits at booth also.

SARAH
You know I’m so mad right now.

AMBER
How come you’re so mad now.

VERONICA
Let me guess, Jessica?

(CONTINUED)
SARAH
Well this time Jack and I were
talking and the doorbell rings,
well guess who?

VERONICA
Look, is Jack really listening to
her though?

SARAH
I don’t know, All I know is that
she told Jack that she really
liked him.

AMBER
So now she’s being a damper on
your relationship with Jack.

SARAH
Exactly, I mean until she moved in
there, Jack and I were
inseparable, and now he doesn’t
even want to be around me.

VERONICA
Hey don’t blame your self on this,
that will only cause heartbreak.
What do you really want?

SARAH
That’s funny, I don’t even know
the answer to that question
anymore.

VERONICA
Do we ever really know the answer
to that question.

SARAH
What?

VERONICA
Oh nothing, just talking to
myself.

AMBER
Right, any ways, maybe Jack and
you aren’t meant to be together,
if he really wants Jessica, then
give her to him. Maybe he’ll come
back and maybe he won’t. Maybe
you’ll be there when or if he
does, maybe you won’t be.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (2)

AMBER (cont'd)
See that’s what is good with this world, it’s an endless journey of anything being possible, and it will be that way until you get up one day and say, I don’t want to be here anymore.

SARAH
Okay, now I’m even more confused, I think you’ve both had too much caffeine. Try bringing it down or switching to decaf.

INT. CAMPUS - HISTORY CLASSROOM - MORNING

Jack and Aaron walking into the classroom with Professor J. Daniels sitting at his desk grading papers.

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
Aren’t you two here at school a little late?

AARON
Remember when you said if we need advice to always come to you first? Well we both need some advice.

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
Okay, look, we’re going to play a game, you give me advice, then I’ll give you some, because it seems to me that I always give advice and get none in return.

JACK
But you’re the Professor, we’re just the students.

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
And did you ever happen to think that Professor’s need someone to talk to sometimes?

JACK
It never really crossed my mind. So what do you need to talk to us about?

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
I’m just joking with you guys, you’re my best students.

(CONTINUED)
AARON
Well we do try our best to pay attention in class.

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
Now I know I’m dreaming.

JACK
Yeah, that was funny Aaron, C’mon us pay attention, we didn’t even in high school.

AARON
That’s because you were too busy throwing spitballs at that student with all the hives on him because they just stuck on them.

JACK
Actually those were the spitballs.

AARON
Wow, I actually thought they were hives.

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
You know I’m really busy, so if you could get to the point before I turn one-hundred.

AARON
Well the truth is that we’re both having women problems right now.

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
Why is whenever you need advice, it’s always no matter what, has to deal with a woman or even women sometimes? Why can’t it ever actually deal with school?

AARON
I’ll have to get back to you on that one.

JACK
Can you help us?

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
It might help if I knew what the problem was.

(CONTINUED)
JACK
Well there’s actually two problems, he has one too.

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
Oh goody, a two for one deal.

JACK
Okay, do you want to go first or should I?

AARON
Flip a coin?

JACK
I don’t have one.

AARON
Professor, you have a coin?

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
This is ridiculous. Aaron you go first.

AARON
Okay fine, well see remember I came to you one time about Stacy, well she showed up the other day and now she doesn’t want to leave and for some reason she’s taken over my girlfriend Melissa.

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
How about you go first Jack.

JACK
Well Sarah and I have been having problems since Valentine’s Day when I let Jessica come over and she caught me.

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
Okay, who’s Jessica? I she in one of my classes?

JACK
No, she just moved in across the hall from us, and she likes me and I have to admit I like her too, but I like Sarah, but Sarah wants to move out now because of the situation.

(CONTINUED)
PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
I hate teaching, I really do, too many student problems, I feel like I’m on the Young and Restless, except you’re the young and I’m the restless.

AARON
Hey we can be restless too.

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
Look, you only have four years in this school, unless you’re in the medical part, you’re already in your second year here, why are you going to not enjoy yourself and keep your worries from yourself.

AARON
What are you trying to say?

JACK
I think he’s trying to say we shouldn’t let stuff bother us, what is meant to be will happen.

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
My god, you got something right, I think I’m having a heart attack.

JACK
Well, it had to happen sometime within my life.

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
The point is why spend your four years here worrying all about girls, and don’t believe every magazine you read about college being all about girls and partying.

AARON
I prefer not reading.

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
Anyways, you should be focusing more on having fun and wanting to learn something because I won’t be here forever, neither will your counselor or other teachers or even your parents at that, if you even still talk to them.

(CONTINUED)
AARON
Why wouldn’t we still talk to our parents, they’re the ones who pay for us to go here.

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
Some students just forget they exist during college. They’re either too drunk or too high.

JACK
Hey I’m sure there are students like us that do the work.

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
Don’t kid yourself. If they made dating based on grades, you’d get the bottom of the crop.

JACK
What are you saying?

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
I’m saying you wouldn’t be dating.

AARON
You know you’re right Professor, we’ve been focusing too much on fun with women, we need to just worry about us for a change.

PROFESSOR J. DANIELS
Anytime you need me, you know where to find me.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT THREE
ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sarah, Stacy and Melissa sitting on couch watching TV.

MELISSA
So have you made a decision about Jack yet?

SARAH
Actually I have and I plan on telling him it as soon as he gets home.

MELISSA
So Stacy, are you coming here to Cleveland University next year?

STACY
Not planning on it, I thought I’d take a year off from school. It’s sad I have to go home tomorrow, the joke was fun on Aaron.

MELISSA
I know, that should get him back for letting Jack have Jessica over. In a way I’m going to miss you, but I can’t wait to see Aaron reaction when we tell him that you’re not really staying and it was a play.

SARAH
Where did Aaron and Jack go, usually they’re home by now from class.

STACY
Well I can’t wait around, I have to get home, I hope we get to talk again Melissa.

MELISSA
I hope so too.

Stacy gets up and leaves.

SARAH
Nice girl, how did you find her?

(CONTINUED)
MELISSA
I found this black book Aaron had in his top drawer and I saw her name crossed out and asked Ryan about her.

SARAH
Pretty slick, you’ve got talent.

Aaron and Jack walk in.

MELISSA
Where have you guys been, we’ve been worried.

AARON
We had some places to go, look Melissa we need to talk.

MELISSA
No actually I need to talk to you, look I found your little black book and talked to Ryan and Stacy was the get back for letting Jessica in here, she’s not coming back again, she knows you don’t want anything to do with her. I’m sorry.

AARON
I’m going to kill you.

MELISSA
Hey you did deserve it, I mean you’re supposed to be Jack’s best friend, I felt bad for him.

AARON
I didn’t do anything though, I told him it was a bad idea.

SARAH
Jack, look, I know you didn’t mean for everything that’s happened to happen.

JACK
I don’t want you to move out Sarah.
SARAH
I’ve thought a lot about it, and then I had some coffee, and then some chips and dip, and then I took a nap, and then I thought about it some more.

JACK
And...

SARAH
Look, I’m not going to move out, I’m going to stay living here, but we need to end here.

JACK
What, why?

SARAH
The other day when I heard Jessica say she liked you, it made me think that she isn’t going to quit, plus the fact that you see her means you like her too.

JACK
I’m not going to lie to you, my name is Jack and I’m a women lover. Yes I do like her.

SARAH
See, so why shouldn’t we end.

JACK
Are you sure we’re doing the right thing.

SARAH
People that wait too long to break up, always end up hating each other, and we live together, we have to be friends.

JACK
So you’re saying we should break up right now, so we can stay friends.

(CONTINUED)
SARAH
Right and this way we leave the door open that one day, we could get back together, one day long after Jessica is moved out and long gone.

JACK
So this is it then.

SARAH
Yeah, we’re officially broken up.

JACK
Now what?

SARAH
Now we go on with our lives.

JACK
So I’ll see you later?

SARAH
Yeah, I’ll see you later.

Jack walks out the door and leaves.

INT. KINGSTON LOUNGE - LATER
Aaron, Jack and Melissa sitting at booth drinking coffee.

MELISSA
You going to be okay Jack?

JACK
I’ll get over it, plus Jessica wants me to stop over after school tomorrow.

AARON
Well you know if things get really bad, you can always hang out with us.

JACK
I know, I’ll be okay.

Ryan and Veronica walk in and sit down at booth with Veronica pulling up chair to booth.

RYAN
So how you taking it Jack.

(CONTINUED)
JACK
Look everything is fine in my life right now.

VERONICA
You and Sarah just broke up, you can’t be just okay.

JACK
I said I’m fine, and I’m going to be fine, I’m just going to be friends with her and with Jessica also. Now let’s just drop it.

Jack gets up and leaves.

VERONICA
Do you guys think that he’ll be okay.

AARON
I’ve known Jack for a long time, sometimes I feel like it’s been ninety years. I know he gets over a lot of road blocks, but this is one I don’t know about.

RYAN
Well he can come hang out over at the dorm anytime he wants.

AARON
I think it’s going to be a long time before Jack starts to be the same again.

RYAN
Do you think Sarah and him will ever get back together?

AARON
I really couldn’t tell you.

MELISSA
I never thought Sarah would get this serious over another girl liking Jack.

VERONICA
I think that Jack likes her too though.

(CONTINUED)
AARON
The last thing we need to do is treat Jack different.

MELISSA
I know he’ll be fine, he’s strong minded.

AARON
I’ll know he’ll be too.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW