INDEPENDENT LIVING

1X12

“Meet Jessica”

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FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT – LIVING ROOM – NIGHT

Aaron comes walking in with Christine sitting on couch watching Television.

AARON
What’s going on across the hall, all I see is lots and lots of boxes.

CHRISTINE
There moving out, I guess.

AARON
I wonder who’s going to move in.

CHRISTINE
Well rumor has it the Pope was looking here the other day at an apartment.

AARON
In other words you have no idea.

CHRISTINE
You got it.

AARON
I bet you it’ll be some business person, someone important.

CHRISTINE
Why do you say that?

AARON
It usually is, besides we live in Ohio.

Jack comes walking into the apartment.

JACK
What is going on, all I see is boxes?

(CONTINUED)
AARON
There moving out across the hall.

JACK
Any clue who’s moving in?

AARON
Well Christine said the Pope, but I think he’s too busy with Italy or whatever he does.

CHRISTINE
It was suppose to be a joke stupid. See this is so why I can’t wait to get my college acceptance letters back.

AARON
You will be getting those back soon won’t you?

CHRISTINE
Duh. What are you stupid or something.

AARON
What happened to the sweet innocent little sister of Amber’s?

CHRISTINE
She grew up...

AARON
I know, I know, stupid right.

CHRISTINE
You got it.

Sarah comes walking in through the front door.

SARAH
What is going on across the hall...

CHRISTINE
Let me guess, boxes and boxes right.

SARAH
No I was going to say movers.

(CONTINUED)
AARON
They’re moving out across the hall.

SARAH
Wonder who the new neighbor will be?

AARON
That’s what we’re all wondering.

SARAH
So why are we sitting around here.

CHRISTINE
Well in most cultures, someone has to move out before one moves in, dumb one.

SARAH
What happened to the sweet girl that used to live here.

AARON
She grew up.

BLACK OUT.

END OF TEASER
ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. KINGSTON LOUNGE - DAY

Aaron and Ryan sitting at booth talking.

AARON
So now according to Christine, I’m stupid and Sarah’s dumb one.

RYAN
What is she giving you guys Indian names? I mean what happened to the sweet innocent girl that used to live with you guys?

AARON
Well according to her she grew up.

Sarah comes walking over in her waitress uniform.

SARAH
Hey guys, what do you guys want to drink today?

RYAN
Hey Sarah, we order the same thing all the time, a good waitress would know that.

SARAH
Hey Ryan, I’m doing what I’m told in my job description.

AARON
Ignore him Sarah, he’s just upset because Dan and him still can’t get along.

SARAH
You two are still fighting over Veronica?

RYAN
I’m just trying to show Dan I’m going to get her in the end.

SARAH
I feel bad for Veronica.

(CONTINUED)
RYAN
Why do you feel bad for Veronica, what about me, I have to deal with Dan.

SARAH
Because Veronica has to deal with you two bozo’s.

RYAN
How am I a bozo?

SARAH
Well all you need is the make-up and big red nose, I mean you’re already funny looking.

RYAN
Are you going to let her talk to me like that Aaron?

AARON
Yes I am, she takes our order plus gives us free drinks.

SARAH
Thank You Aaron. By the way may I say your hair looks good.

AARON
Thanks, I figured I let it grow out for a while, not too long though, medium length.

RYAN
Why are you growing a beard though, wasn’t the goatee enough?

SARAH
Why do you care what Aaron does with his face?

RYAN
Why do you care what I ask?

SARAH
I think the beard looks good, I think the hair and beard will look good.

AARON
I’ll have my usual, Sarah.
SARAH
Okay, I’ll be right back.

Sarah walks away.

RYAN
I can’t stand her sometimes.

AARON
Why can’t you stand her, because she’s right?

RYAN
Okay you make a good point, but she just gets on your nerves sometimes, always being right, how could you deal with that?

AARON
I don’t know, ask Jack, he’s the one that has to be with it everyday.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Jack and Christine sitting on couch reading when the doorbell rings.

JACK
I’ll get it.

Jack gets up and answers the door and it’s a girl who’s about twenty wearing a pink shirt and black pants.

JESSICA
Hi, I just wanted to introduce myself.

JACK
Me first, I’m Jack Vander, I’m a sophomore at Cleveland University and not married.

Christine gets up and comes to the door.

CHRISTINE
Yes but he’s in a relationship with a great girl who wouldn’t like him right now at this moment. Hi I’m Christine.

(CONTINUED)
JESSICA
Hi I’m Jessica Cambridge, I just rented the apartment across the hall. You all go to Cleveland University?

CHRISTINE
They all go to Cleveland University, I’m a senior at Middlebrook High School.

JESSICA
But they, I’m assuming you two are brother and sister and the they is you Jack, are sophomore’s at Cleveland University?

CHRISTINE
Actually no we’re not brother and sister, this is the only three bedroom here in the complex, but our friends Aaron and Jack’s girlfriend Sarah live here also. And yes they are all sophomore’s.

JESSICA
Good because I’m a sophomore too. Maybe we have some of the same classes Jack, I’d love for you to come over and we can talk and get to know each other.

JACK
Sure I’d love that too, but I have to get to class right now, but I’ll be back in about an hour, I’ll stop by then.

JESSICA
Okay, I’ll make some snacks.

Jack closes the door.

CHRISTINE
What are you doing?

JACK
What do you mean?

CHRISTINE
You have a girlfriend, Sarah, remember. And now you’re going over another girls apartment.

(CONTINUED)
JACK
Well what you’re going to do is not tell Sarah.

CHRISTINE
You’re right I’m not, you’re going too.

JACK
I will when the times right.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. CAMPUS - MELISSA'S DORM - NIGHT

Melissa is laying on her bed reading a magazine when Aaron comes walking through the door and sits on the bed.

AARON
Okay, I got some good news and more good news.

MELISSA
I thought the saying goes good news and bad news?

AARON
But I really have good news and more good news.

MELISSA
Okay what is the good news.

AARON
How would you like to go to the Superbowl?

MELISSA
Are you serious?

AARON
Just ask me what my other good news is.

MELISSA
Okay sweetheart, whom I love, what is the other good news?

AARON
All we have to do to go to the Superbowl on Jacksonville is to find the tickets buried somewhere in the zoo.

MELISSA
I’m thinking no, I’m not going to spend my day looking all over the zoo for some tickets that they buried somewhere just to go to Florida.

(CONTINUED)
AARON  
But I thought you loved football and one of your dreams was to go to the superbowl?

MELISSA  
It is but I’d rather us actually buy tickets, plus I’d rather go when the Cleveland Browns go.

AARON  
Well that will be never, but your hometown team is in it.

MELISSA  
Look yes, the Philadelphia Eagles are my favorite team of all time, but why don’t we just have a superbowl party instead, my real dream is to just be with you during the superbowl.

AARON  
That’s an even better idea because I really couldn’t see myself digging in the snow to find tickets.

MELISSA  
Well we should have the party at your house.

AARON  
Good idea, I’ll buy the chips and dip and yes I’ll get cheese sauce, mild right?

MELISSA  
I love you.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Christine sitting on couch reading a book when Sarah comes walking in through the front door.

SARAH  
Hey where’s Jack, I have some great news.

CHRISTINE  
CONTINUED:

SARAH
Okay stop playing, no seriously, where is he, I really need to tell him something.

CHRISTINE
I don’t really know where he is.

SARAH
You know something don’t you?

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. JESSICA’S APARTMENT - DAY

Jack and Jessica sitting on plastic covered couch in living room, talking.

JESSICA
So how is it that you got to live with three other people?

JACK
Well Aaron has been my best friend for like as long as I remember and then Christine is his ex-girlfriend’s sister and Sarah is my girlfriend who moved in when Amber moved out after she and Aaron broke up. It’s a really long story and would take much too long to tell, maybe I’ll tell you some other time. So how did you come to live here?

JESSICA
Well I was living in the city of Cleveland with my mom and dad and two brothers, but got tired of it, so I decided to start looking into moving and found this building here in Parma Heights, and ta da, I’m here.

JACK
So you’re a sophomore at Cleveland University also?

JESSICA
Yeah, it wasn’t my first choice, my first choice was Ohio University but then I figured what the hell, I’ll stay here in hell for longer.

JACK
Hey what time is it?

JESSICA
A quarter to five, why?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JACK
Oh crap, I got to go.

Jack jumps over the couch and opens the front door and runs out it.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sarah and Christine sitting on couch watching Television as Jack comes walking in through the front door.

SARAH
Hey, you’re only two hours late, where have you been?

JACK
Actually I was at the library, I had some looking up something to do.

SARAH
Well what did you have to look up?

JACK
I had to learn how to cook, it was something on my to do list in life.

SARAH
Oh well maybe you can cook dinner tonight then.

JACK
She knows doesn’t she?

CHRISTINE
Yes she does.

SARAH
Please explain to me why you would be two hours late because you wanted to go over the new neighbors and play house with her.

JACK
Hey, I was just getting to know the new neighbor, I was greeting her.

SARAH
With what? Your good looks?

(CONTINUED)
JACK
Why do you have to go to the extreme on every little thing, see Christine, this is what drives people crazy.

CHRISTINE
Hey I’m having fun watching this, I only wish I had some popcorn and pop.

JACK
Look Sarah, why do we have to fight at every little moment.

SARAH
I want you to promise me that you won’t go over to her house again.

JACK
Why do we have to go to those extremes. We only talked, can I help it if I’m an overly attractive young male.

SARAH
You make me sick sometimes.

JACK
Look I’m done with this.

SARAH
Why because you can’t come up with a come-back.

JACK
No it’s because I want to get things for the superbowl party.

SARAH
You know about the party already.

JACK
Yeah, Aaron told me about it at school earlier.

SARAH
Well let’s go then.

Jack and Sarah walk out the door.
INT. KINGSTON LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS

Aaron and Dan sitting down at table.

DAN
So you and Melissa are hosting a party this Sunday?

AARON
How did you find out about it?

DAN
The lady at the grocery store told me about it.

AARON
So does like everybody know about this party.

DAN
Pretty much, Jack told...

AARON
...everybody, I know. This is why I don’t tell Jack things right away, they tend to get told to everybody, then we have a hundred million people at our party.

DAN
Well look at it in this way, You’ll be famous the next day at school.

AARON
That is true now, I would be one of the most popular kids at Cleveland University.

DAN
Why are we sitting here then, why aren’t we out there getting stuff for the party?

Veronica walks in and sits down with them.

VERONICA
Hey guys, hey Aaron, I heard that you’re having a superbowl party on Sunday?
DAN
Aaron is.

AARON
Okay this small party with like ten people is going to turn into a huge gathering of half the school isn’t it?

DAN
Well there’s a good chance of it.

VERONICA
Well I’m not into football, Actually Ryan asked me to go with him.

DAN
Ryan asked you to go, I was going to ask you to go.

VERONICA
Why do you two have to fight over me? Why can’t we all just be friends and not worry about who’s going out with who or what or when or why?

DAN
Because you’re hot.

AARON
Hey Dan, never ever tell a women there hot.

DAN
Why, she is.

VERONICA
So that’s all you think of me as is hot. I’m just some piece of meat to you, some prize that you want to win?

DAN
No, I think of you more than that, you’re more like a goal.

VERONICA
Oh that makes me feel so much better, You really don’t understand what this makes me feel like do you?

(CONTINUED)
AARON
Dan, don’t answer that, if you want to ever have a chance, just don’t answer what you’re going to say because you have the wrong answer.

VERONICA
It’s okay, I’m not coming to the party any ways, In fact, I think you and Ryan both need to get this straight, I wouldn’t go out with either one of you if my life depended on it.

Veronica gets up and walks out.

AARON
See, she made the decision for you.

DAN
No she didn’t, I made the wrong decision.

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

Veronica is sitting at the desk when Dan walks in.

DAN
Hey Veronica, we need to talk.

VERONICA
What did you run out of fights with Ryan over me, or did you decide on a new trophy.

DAN
No, I wanted to say that, that’s not how I think of you at all. Look if it wasn’t for you, I wouldn’t have half of the fun that I have in my life. I don’t want you to think that all I care about is trying to go out with you, because that’s not all I care about, I care about you. I would rather be your friend then not be anything at all with you.

VERONICA
You mean that?

(CONTINUED)
DAN
Yeah I mean it. Why wouldn’t I? When you moved in here, this became the sanctuary. You’re one of the guys now.

VERONICA
So you won’t fight over me anymore, we’re just friends, and you’ll let me make my own choice on who I want to date even if it’s not either of you, not saying it won’t be, but if it’s not?

DAN
Right, that’s what I’m saying.

VERONICA
Okay then, that’s how it should be.

Veronica and Dan hug when Ryan comes walking in and sees them hugging and then turns around and walks right back out.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT THREE
ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. JESSICA’S APARTMENT – DAY

Jack sitting on couch next to Jessica.

JACK
So then she got mad at me because I came over here to welcome you into the building.

JESSICA
It sounds like your girlfriend gets mad at you a lot.

JACK
She does whenever she thinks she is right. She’s cool the rest of the time.

JESSICA
Why don’t you just dump her then, it sounds to me like she is very controlling.

JACK
Well she does make my life more full, plus she’s always there when I need somebody, but she’s also there when I don’t need anybody, and I hate it how she tells me who I can and can’t be friends with.

JESSICA
Well you need to make a choice because I do want to be your friend, I would love to be friends with all of your friends.

JACK
So have you met Professor Daniels yet?

JESSICA
Which one, I know there are two of them.

JACK
Both of them?

(CONTINUED)
JESSICA
Yes, I’ve met them both, very weird brother and sister.

JACK
I just don’t know how they came to both be Professor’s at the same school. I mean we pay to go to school, and we pay for that right.

JESSICA
I agree, so what time do you have to be home tonight?

JACK
At or around four, why?

JESSICA
It’s a quarter to five.

JACK
Oh crap, I got to go, I’m going to be in so much trouble.

Jack gets up and jumps over the couch and opens the door to have Sarah standing there.

SARAH
You don’t know how much trouble you’re in.

JACK
Can I make a guess?

SARAH
Why don’t you just sit back down on her couch. Why don’t you sit down too blondie.

JESSICA
I have brown hair, not blonde, you should really get your eyes checked.

SARAH
I don’t care.

Jack and Jessica sit down on couch. Sarah sits down in the chair next to the couch.

JACK
Can we play 20 questions?

(CONTINUED)
SARAH
Oh we’re going to play 20 questions, see Jessica, Jack and I are an item and we would both like it if you would keep your dirty little paws off my boyfriend.

JESSICA
Maybe he wouldn’t be all over me if his girlfriend treated him like a man instead of a human meatball.

SARAH
Okay I’m only going to say this once, you’re not allowed over here with this tramp anymore, okay Jack. I don’t want to see this tramp at all, anywhere.

JACK
Look, Sarah, this was my idea, not Jessica’s. I came over here to help her unpack some things, plus we never finished our conversation from the other day.

SARAH
I don’t care.

JESSICA
Look, Jack and I aren’t doing anything that is going to break up your little clique. I know he is with you and I don’t need you to tell me you are.

SARAH
Shut up, this is an AX and BZ conversation, so why don’t you see your way out of it.

JACK
I’m so sorry Jessica, my girlfriend is just a little overreacting.

SARAH
Let’s go Jack, I hope I never see you again, Jessica.

Sarah and Jack get up and start towards the door.
JESSICA
Go to hell.

JACK
I’m so sorry.

Sarah pulls Jack out the door and slams the door.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Aaron and Jack are sitting on the couch with about fifty other people in the room with the superbowl on the television.

AARON
So she was really that mad at you just for going over Jessica’s again.

JACK
She was pissed, she told me I’m not allowed over there again.

Amber walks over and sits down.

AMBER
Who’s winning the game?

AARON
New England is winning ten to nothing. Hey did you hear about Sarah and Jack?

AMBER
Yeah, I heard that she tore your head off with tweezers.

JACK
She was just mad at me.

AARON
I call that a little more than mad.

AMBER
If I were you I would exit and enter this apartment through the back window.

JACK
Funny, I can see Jessica if I want, Sarah can’t do anything about it.

(CONTINUED)
AMBER
I wouldn’t test it.

Christine comes running into the room with a letter in her hand.

CHRISTINE
I got in!

AARON
You got what?

CHRISTINE
I got in to FSTU.

AARON
You got in to what?

AMBER
She got in to Florida State of Tallahassee University. They have one of the best media arts programs in the country.

AARON
So you’ll be leaving us at the end of the year?

CHRISTINE
Yeah, I have to be there by the end of July to register.

AMBER
Congratulations.

CHRISTINE
Thank You!

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. CAMPUS – MELISSA’S DORM – NIGHT (TAG SCENE)

Aaron and Melissa sitting on the bed watching a tape of the superbowl.
AARON
Well I guess Christine’s acceptance into FSTU was more important than the Superbowl.

MELISSA
I think the Superbowl is the most important thing.

AARON
Wow, look at that hit, ouch, he must be hurting.

Ryan comes walking in.

RYAN
Hey you’re watching that game again, It was a great ending, New England over Philly 24 to 21.

AARON
Thank you, Ryan.

RYAN
Hey no problem, you want to go see a movie?

MELISSA
Sure now that we don’t need to watch the game.

AARON
I swear this was not my fault.

MELISSA
No I can’t believe Philly lost the game.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW