THE LAMPSHADE

The College Years

by

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Play # 1: The Beginning of Beginnings

THE LAMPSHADE

Episode 1: A Spaced Out Odyssey

INT. JOHNNY & B'S DORM ROOM - DAY

It's a typical dorm room, with desks and beds, and a couch in the middle of the room. The only difference is that this dorm room is trashed, covered with beer cans, drug paraphernalia and even a large bong — I guess that actually makes it more of a typical dorm room.

Johnny sits on the couch and hangs up the phone. B chills on his bed.

JOHNNY

I shouldn't have lied.

B

Of course you should have. They expect it.

Door opens suddenly. Mare enters.

JOHNNY

There's my little Marilea.

В

(to Mare)
What's wrong?

MARE

Room inspections! You've got to clean up fast!

В

Nah, our RA's cool.

MARE

My RA's doing the inspection...

Johnny and B share a panicked look.

JOHNNY & B

Gwen!

MARE (CONT'D)

...and for some reason she's got it in for you. You guys get another Code 1, you'll get kicked out.

В

Let's do this.

B turns on some fast-paced music which should compliment the three as they furiously pick up all the beer cans and liquor bottles, filling a trash bag with them. Once the room is straightened, B is holding the trash bag full of beer. B spots a bong on the desk.

В

Bong!

JOHNNY

Got it!

Johnny rushes to the closet and pulls out a lampshade which he puts over the bong. B reaches to open the door, but there is:

A KNOCK AT THE DOOR.

MARE

Girls can't be in here.

ANOTHER KNOCK

GWEN (O.S.)

RA!

JOHNNY

What'll we do?

MARE

Trust me.

Mare pulls down Johnny's pants, Mare then drops to the floor and covers herself with a blanket. The door opens, and Gwen enters. B for his part is hidden, with the trash bag, behind the door.

GWEN

(laughing at seeing Johnny
 in his boxers)
Sorry, I keyed in. I figured you
were gone.

Johnny pulls up his pants.

JOHNNY

I just woke up. What's up, Gwen?

Gwen enters to the center of the room behind the couch. Mare crawls on the floor in front of the couch towards the door. B sneaks around the still open door and rushes out of the room unseen.

GWEN

Inspections.

JOHNNY

Might as well start at the window.

Gwen crosses toward the window. Mare crawls toward the door.

GWEN

Missing screen. That's a fine.

JOHNNY

Oops?

Mare is about to sneak out the door, when B reenters without the trash bag and shuts the door behind him. Mare gestures angrily, B shrugs, and Mare recovers herself with the blanket.

GWEN

(to B)

Inspections.

В

Alright.

GWEN

(spotting the blanket)

Is that...?

JOHNNY & B

(cutting her off)

Laundry!

B picks up the blanket with Mare still inside, walks the bundle over to the closet and tosses it in. Gwen crosses over to inspect the room door. B sits down on the couch.

GWEN

This door doesn't look too good. Wood's cracking.

B shifts uncomfortably, reaches into the couch and pulls out a bag of marijuana. Johnny and B exchange a panicked look. Johnny grabs the bag and tosses it out the window. B jumps to his feet and is about to jump out the window after the bag, but Johnny grabs him and holds him back. Gwen turns to see the two guys in each others arms. They hug tightly.

JOHNNY

We like each other.

(beat)

How's the cabinet?

Gwen turns to inspect the cabinet. Johnny rushes to her side.

GWEN

Paint's chipped.

B goes to the closet, whispers in Mare's ear and points to the window. Mare shakes her head, "No!"

GWEN

(to Johnny)

You've been working out.

JOHNNY

Some.

B pleads silently with his eyes. Mare sighs and starts to sneak toward the window. B follows after pulling an umbrella from the closet. Gwen begins to turn around toward where Mare is sneaking.

JOHNNY

(sputters out)

I can't stop thinking of that night!

GWEN

(turning back to Johnny)

Really?!

Mare is outraged. B puts his hand over he mouth, then not knowing what else to do, tosses Mare out the window.

GWEN

You've avoided me since.

JOHNNY

I'm intimidated.

GWEN

I'll bet you are.

B tosses the umbrella out to Mare, it gets tossed right back at him. Gwen backs Johnny into a wall.

GWEN

I thought I was too strong for you.

JOHNNY

You're strong.

B pulls Mare back in the window, she's dripping wet. Mare sees Johnny and Gwen up on each other, but B manages to keep her quiet. B sneaks Mare over to the closet and pushes her back in.

GWEN

Poor thing, are you bruised?

Johnny doesn't know what to say. Gwen is about to kiss him, but is interrupted by a sudden crash in the closet. Johnny and Gwen look to the closet.

B I'll just...

B rushes into the closet. Gwen looking confused starts to go over to the closet, but B emerges quickly.

B I'm changing.

GWEN

What?

В

I'm hot.

JOHNNY

He's weird.

В

Very weird.

GWEN

What's going...

(sees the bong with a

lampshade)

What's that?

JOHNNY

I love you!

Mare storms out of the closet.

MARE

That's it!

GWEN

What are you doing ...?

MARE

(to Gwen)

Shut up!

(MORE)

MARE (cont'd)

(to Johnny)

You love her?

JOHNNY

No, I just said that to distract her, because I didn't want you to get in trouble, because I really love you.

GWEN

Sure.

JOHNNY & MARE

Shut up!

MARE

(to Johnny)

Do you really expect me to buy that? You cheated on me.

GWEN

I can see why.

MARE

What does that mean?

GWEN

Just that you're so whiny. He wants a real girl, not some freshman.

JOHNNY

Shut up!

During the commotion, B grabs the bong and puts it under his shirt.

Ε

I'm gonna go!

JOHNNY & MARE & GWEN

Shut up!

B gives them the thumbs up, then runs out the door.

GWEN

I'll leave you two to work this out, and when you do...

(to Johnny)

...call me.

MARE

What a bit...

JOHNNY

Don't say it, Mare. It's me you should be mad at. I made a terrible mistake. I was wasted and I screwed up. I couldn't tell you, because... I'm crazy about you, and I couldn't risk losing you.

MARE

I don't want to hear this, Johnny. I've been tossed out a window, rained on, thrown in the closet, all so you wouldn't get hurt. That' what being crazy about someone is.

JOHNNY

I'm sorry. Marilea, I love you.

MARE

Do you really expect me to trust you?

Mare exits. Johnny sits on the couch dejectedly. B reenters without the bong.

That could've been bad. Where's your chick?

JOHNNY

Left.

But she'll be back?

(Johnny shakes his head) She didn't take the cheating thing

well, huh?

(Johnny shakes his head)

So now you're just gonna mope about it?

(Johnny nods his head) Good plan. That'll get the woman you love back. Seriously, dude, how'd you get an awesome girl like Mare in the first place?

As this last statement dawns on Johnny, B turns on the accompaniment music to "Oh, Marilea."

JOHNNY

(singing)

Of Course, He's right, I must put up a fight, (MORE)

JOHNNY (cont'd)

'Gainst the dying of the light, It will be a wondrous sight, To bring Mare back from the night.

В

(singing)

Did you know we have a kite?

JOHNNY

Of course he's not too bright, Maybe, he's not right.

P

How much will rhyme with "ite"?

JOHNNY

Now my heart is a-blaze!

Р

It's a couch and not a-chaise!

JOHNNY

I'll win her back today, I know I'll find a way, Find the perfect thing to say, Maybe get another lay.

В

What did you just say?

JOHNNY

I said, I'll get her back today.

R

You wanna smoke a jay?

JOHNNY

R

Here is what we'll do.
To get her back for you.
Some candles, Some roses,
And pics with sexy poses.
We'll fix your hair,
Wear that sexy underwear.
A tie, A shave
Now don't you misbehave.
A card, A poem,
That'll get her goin'
Incense burnin'
Will liven up her yearnin'
That is how we'll get her back,
For you!

JOHNNY & B

(singing in round)
Oh Marilea, Oh Marilea
Without you, where would I/he be?
I'm/He's nothing, without thee,
Oh Marilea!

JOHNNY

Oh Marilea!

В

Oh Marilea!

JOHNNY

We'll win her back, you and me!

В

Then naked, her you'll see!

JOHNNY & B

Oh Marilea!

B turns off the music.

В

It's lucky I put in that random accompaniment tape earlier.

JOHNNY

Yeah. Ready to get this going?

Ε

Let's do this.

B turns on more music as he sets up candles, takes out a wine bottle, pours two glasses and creates other mood setters. Johnny gets dressed and cleaned up. B turns off the music then hands Johnny the phone.

R

Dial her up.

JOHNNY

(into phone)

Mare? Look, can I talk to you? I know... Just give me a chance to make it up to you... Right... Yeah, I don't want to do this over the phone either, can you come down so I can see you? Thanks, see you soon.

В

Nice work, buddy. Now we put on some Mr. Sinatra...

B turns on a slow Frank Sinatra song.

B (CONT'D)

...and you're good to go.

JOHNNY

Dude, get out of here. You know how proactive Mare is. She'll be here soon.

В

Alright, go get her, Johnny.

JOHNNY

Thanks, B.

B goes to leave, but there's a

KNOCK AT THE DOOR

B bolts into the closet. Johnny chases after him.

JOHNNY

No, don't go in...

Mare enters. Johnny freezes. She looks at all the candles and incense.

MARE

You're subtle.

JOHNNY

You know B. He's overdramatic.

MARE

Yeah.

When Mare's back is turned, B comes out to protest, but Johnny quickly pushes B back into the closet.

JOHNNY

B poured us drinks, you want one?

Mare takes a drink and laughs.

JOHNNY

What?

MARE

It's Kool-aid.

B laughs from the closet. Johnny laughs loudly to cover it. Mare turns to the closet and winces.

JOHNNY

What's wrong?

MARE

I'm a little stiff, could be from, I don't know, being thrown out the window.

JOHNNY

Here let me.

(starts to massage her)
I'm real sorry about how things
went earlier.

MARE

I know you are.

B sneaks out of the closet and tries to hand Johnny a copy of the Kama Sutra. Johnny waves B away.

JOHNNY

Look, I know this doesn't really help, but what happened between me and Gwen, it was a long time ago. You and I had been on a few dates, but...

MARE

...But we weren't really together yet. That doesn't really make me feel better, but it's good to know.

B sneaks out again and tries to hand Johnny a strip of condoms. Johnny whips B with the strip, then thinking better of it, pockets them.

JOHNNY

Mare, I want you to know, I'll do...

MARE

(cutting him off)

Shhh... I love this song.

Johnny and Mare stand and begin to slow dance. B comes out of the closet and holds up a pair of crazy underwear, Johnny waves B away again. B returns quickly, now shirtless but with a can of whipped cream. B sprays a smiley face on his chest, but once again Johnny waves him away.

MARE

Alright, there's one thing I have to know.

JOHNNY

Anything.

MARE

I'm better, right?

JOHNNY

She didn't even compare.

MARE

Better believe it.

JOHNNY

No one is as sexy, and beautiful, and funny, and good smelling...

MARE

Good smelling? Go on.

As Johnny and Mare become increasingly playful, B crawls out again and tries to give Johnny some scuba gear. Johnny hits B with it.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

You're also intelligent, and caring, and spontaneous, you've got a great rack.

MARE

Now you're teasing.

JOHNNY

You love it.

MARF

I love it do I?

Mare pokes Johnny, then starts to tickle him. They have a short tickle war, then as they are about to kiss, Mare suddenly stops and sniffs the air.

MARE

Do you smell smoke?

JOHNNY

Yeah.

MARE

It smells like it's coming from the closet.

JOHNNY

Yeah - No! There's nobody - nothing in the closet. In fact, I don't smell anything.

MARE

There's definitely smoke coming from your closet.

JOHNNY

No, it's just the incense, it's burnt-smoke-wood-tobacco incense.

Mare reaches into the closet and pulls out B. He's wearing the scuba gear and smoking a joint.

В

You want a hit?

MARE

What's going on here?

В

I better go.

B is about to jump out the window.

MARE

No, I think I'll go.

JOHNNY

Mare, please don't.

MARE

This is all just some big joke to you isn't it, Johnny? Good-bye.

Mare exits. Johnny follows quickly.

R

Boy, he screwed that up.

B sits still smoking his joint. There is a

KNOCK AT THE DOOR

В

La mesa es abre.

Gwen enter, B doesn't turn to see who it is.

GWEN

Mesa means table.

F

Are we in Spain?

GWEN

No.

В

Are you in the room?

GWEN

Yes.

В

Then who cares what it means, everything worked out.

B finally turns to see it's Gwen. He jumps up startled and quickly throws his joint in a cup of water.

Ε

Oh, it's you. Don't you have more inspections to do? More lives to ruin.

GWEN

I got another RA to cover it. Where's Johnny?

В

Climbing the Alps.

GWEN

He's with her, huh?

В

Nope, doing his taxes.

GWEN

Whatever.

R

(forcefully) Leave him alone.

GWEN

What did you say?

В

(less certain)
Leave him alone.

GWEN

Look at you, stepping up to the plate. I do what I want, when I want, got it?

В

No, leave him alone. Why do you care anyway?

GWEN

Because Johnny's a good guy, and contrary to popular opinion, I like good guys.

В

I'm a good guy, forget him, you can have me.

(Gwen just laughs)

What? I'm good looking.

(Gwen laughs louder and

louder as B continues)

I'm in good shape, I'm funny, and compassionate and... I'm not as well hung as Johnny, I noticed once in the showers and I'm a little less, but anyway it's how you use it, and baby, I know how to use it. Stop laughing at me!

(Gwen doesn't)

That's it, you're going down!

GWEN

Think you can take me?

В

Oh yeah.

GWEN

Bring it on.

The two fight. Gwen easily beats up B.

GWEN

That was fun. Got my heart racing, and what with this incense, and the candles... I'm starting to feel...

B quickly turns on some seductive music. It begins to obviously turn on Gwen. B begins a strange striptease, and retrieves the whipped cream to once again spray himself. Gwen is almost hypnotically drawn to B, and joins him behind the couch.

GWEN

Incense... Candles... Music... It's all so...

В

Shhh.

GWEN

Kiss me!

B grabs Gwen and they wildly kiss and drop to the floor behind the couch. Clothes are flown and there are obvious love-making sounds. Shortly after, B pops up breathing heavily. Gwen pops up a second later.

GWEN

Well, that was fast.

В

Yeah it was... I mean, Hey, I'll show you fast!

B grabs Gwen again, and they go down. More love making sounds and shortly after, Gwen pops up again.

GWEN

Wow! Still fast, but... What am I doing?

В

I'll show you what you're doing!

B grabs Gwen again. More love-making. Gwen appears again.

GWEN

Alright. We're done.

Gwen starts to grab some clothes. B pops up and restarts the seductive song. Gwen becomes hypnotized again and grab B.

GWEN

(from behind the couch) Ooooohh, B!

В

(pops up)

How come you all get real names, and I'm still stuck with B?

Gwen grabs B again. More love-making. Gwen pops up finally, breathing heavily.

GWEN

Okay, I'm impressed, that was good.

В

Baby, I'm just getting started.

GWEN

Four times, and you're just getting started?

В

You wanna see?

GWEN

Do I ever!

В

Grrrrr!

They are about to go at it again, when the door opens. Johnny reenters.

JOHNNY

Oh my god.

GWEN

Hey, Johnny.

В

Check it out, dude.

B raises his hand for the high five. Johnny hits B in the forehead instead.

JOHNNY

We gotta get Gwen out of here.

GWEN

Why?

Ε

Yeah why?

JOHNNY

Cuz Mare is coming back to get her stuff, and if she sees Gwen still here, she'll think I slept with her on the rebound.

В

So I tell her I'm the one who had sex with Gwen.

JOHNNY & GWEN

Yeah, she'll believe that.

R

Hey... Who am I kidding, I wouldn't believe it either. Alright, me and Gwen will go back to her room to continue this.

GWEN

In your dreams.

B restarts the seductive sone.

GWEN

We'll go back to my room.

B and Gwen start to get redressed. Johnny tries to hurry them along, but there is a

KNOCK AT THE DOOR

JOHNNY

Perfect.

В

(to Gwen)

Out the window!

(she slaps him)

Or don't.

JOHNNY

(to Gwen)

Are you going to help or not?

GWEN

I helped you get into this, I'll help you get out of it.

JOHNNY

Thanks, now get in the closet fast!

В

(to Gwen)

This has been a very farcical day.

B and Gwen rush into the closet. Johnny opens the door. Mare enters.

JOHNNY

Come in.

MARE

I'm just going to get a few things and then go.

JOHNNY

Mare, does it have to be like this?

MARE

For now, yes.

JOHNNY

Don't be like...

MARE

We need some time apart. And what are you listening to?

Mare restarts the seductive song. There's a sudden crash from the closet.

MARE

What was that?

JOHNNY

Lemmings!

Mare heads for the closet.

JOHNNY

Mare, don't go in the closet, Mare, it could be dangerous.

B emerges quickly from the closet.

Е

Sorry, I was just pumping... Iron, on the floor... push-ins... Ups! I was just doing push-ups.

MARE

In the closet?

В

Yup.

MARE

You can do them out here.

В

Great.

B starts to do push-ups, but he can't do many. Mare turns her back and Gwen grabs B and starts pulling him back into the closet.

В

I'll go back in the closet. It's tighter - warmer - softer... I'll just be in here.

B goes back into the closet.

JOHNNY

I don't believe this.

MARE

What?

JOHNNY

Nothing.

MARE

I've got to get some things from the closet.

JOHNNY

Just a sec.

Johnny pulls B from the closet.

JOHNNY

It's all yours.

Mare goes toward the closet. Johnny suddenly yells and points away from the closet.

JOHNNY

Wait, what's that?!

Mare turns, and Gwen quickly rushes from the closet and behind the couch.

JOHNNY

Sorry, I thought I saw a dragon... I don't know what I was thinking.

Mare goes into the closet. B tries to usher Gwen out the door. Johnny suddenly waves for Gwen to get down.

Gwen goes under the bed, and B sits on the bed to hide her. Mare comes out of the closet.

MARE

Have you guys seen my green shirt?

JOHNNY

No.

В

Nope.

Gwen hands B the shirt from under the bed.

Ε

Yup, it's here.

MARE

What is up with you?

В

I think I need a nap, I'll lie down.

B goes under the bed to lie down.

MARE

He's strange.

JOHNNY

Yeah.

Mare goes back into the closet. B and Gwen get out from under the bed and toward the door. Gwen rushes out, but as B is about to follow, Mare comes out of the closet. Mare doesn't see Gwen just outside the door.

MARE

Where are you going?

В

No where.

B slams the door. It hits Gwen.

GWEN (O.S.)

OW!!

В

I'll just...

B rushes out the door.

MARE

What's going on?

JOHNNY

He's weird.

B (0.S.)

Very weird!

Mare goes and tries to open the door, but B grabs the door from the other side. They have a brief tug-of-war over the door.

JOHNNY

Stop it!

B lets go of the door. It hits Mare and knocks her out.

JOHNNY

What'd you do that for?

В

I panicked.

Gwen reenters.

GWEN

Is she alright?

JOHNNY

I think she's knocked out.

GWEN

Give her some air.

В

(to Gwen)

You gotta get out of here.

GWEN

I'm an RA, it's kind of my job to be here when someone gets hurt.

Gwen shakes Mare a little. Gwen then tries to lightly slap Mare, but when Gwen slaps Mare, Mare immediately slaps Gwen right back. Mare, however, remains unconscious.

В

That was cool.

Gwen slaps B. B slaps Johnny. Johnny slaps B. B goes to slap Gwen, but Gwen slaps B first. B in frustration slaps Mare, who wakes up and sees Gwen.

MARE

You!

Mare jumps up to push Gwen. B breaks them up.

В

Let's all chill.

MARE

What's she doing here?

JOHNNY

You were knocked out, she was helping.

MARE

Helping while being almost naked?!

В

Alright, I had sex with Gwen.

MARE

Yeah, I'll believe that.

GWEN

It's true.

MARE

I guess I shouldn't be surprised.

GWEN

Got to your man first didn't I?

JOHNNY

Hey, shut up!

В

Leave her alone.

MARE

Stay out of this, bonehead!

GWEN

Don't call him that.

MARE

Is slut better? Wait, that's you.

JOHNNY

Whoa, let's calm.

GWEN

I'll be calm, after I beat her down.

В

Uh-oh!

Mare and Gwen begin to cat fight. Johnny tries to pull them apart. B grabs a cup of water and tries to throw it on the girls. The girls duck and the water hits Johnny. Johnny chases after B. B ducks right in front of the closet. Johnny trips over B and falls into the closet. Mare and Gwen are still fighting. B tries to pull Gwen away from Mare. Johnny emerges from the closet with an empty keg, he rolls the keg over toward B. B jumps the keg and it hits Gwen making her fall back. Gwen falls into B causing him to stumble back and fall out the window. Johnny grabs Mare and throws her over his shoulder. Mare is yelling to be put down. Gwen picks up a sock from the floor and stuffs it in Mare's mouth. B climbs back in the window. Johnny puts down Mare. Mare spits out the sock and begins to gag and spit. Johnny tries to grab Gwen, but Gwen knees him in the groin. Johnny falls over in pain. Gwen tries to poke Mare in the eyes, but Mare stops gagging long enough to quickly do a 3 Stooges eye block, then goes back to gagging. B grabs Gwen and puts her in the closet, then B takes the whipped cream and sprays it into Mare's mouth. Mare takes the whipped cream from B and sprays it in his face then hits him with the can. B stumbles blinded and confused and trips out the window again. Gwen emerges from the closet with a frying pan, she takes a swing at Mare, but Johnny stands up just in time to take the hit. Johnny falls onto the couch. Mare takes the frying pan from Gwen and hits Gwen over the head with it. Gwen falls to the floor. Mare goes to tend to Johnny. B climbs back in the window, and still dazed, B trips over Gwen, only to get up and trip over the keg.

В

Make love not war.

MARE

Are you alright, Johnny?

JOHNNY

(dazed and singing)
Oh, Marilea
Without you, where would I be?
I'm nothing, without thee.

MARE

That's so sweet.

JOHNNY

Well, I love you.

MARE

Being with you will never be boring will it?

JOHNNY

Nope.

B

Not as long as I'm his roommate.

GWEN

(to B)

Shhhh.

MARE

(beginning to laugh) I just can't help it.

JOHNNY

What?

MARE

Loving you, you lovable idiot.

Johnny and Mare kiss.

В

And everything works out.

(to Gwen)

Let's go have sex.

GWEN

You are so romantic, B.

В

Romance is only for Valentine's day. And sometimes Arbor Day.

JOHNNY

Spoken like a true dude.

Johnny goes and helps B and Gwen up.

JOHNNY

I'm sorry about the...

В

Forget it. Is everybody sorry?

EVERYBODY

Yes.

В

Is everybody making up for it?

JOHNNY

Trying.

Mare gives Johnny a kiss.

В

Then there's just one more thing.

GWEN

What?

В

(to Mare and Gwen) You two have to kiss.

Mare and Gwen shrug and lean in to kiss. B watches anxiously, then just as they're about to kiss, they both his B.

В

OW!

GWEN

Stop whining. You want to get out of here?

В

Hell's yes.

(to Johnny and Mare)
See you guys after I have
sufficiently satisfied my lust.

GWEN

You are such a dork. What am I doing with you?

В

I'll show you what you're doing.

B and Gwen exit.

MARE

Thus ends the craziest day of my life.

JOHNNY

It's not over yet, we could still...

MARE

Could still what?

JOHNNY

Go down the hall and play video games.

MARE

Oh, I was afraid you were going to try and seduce me.

JOHNNY

Let's go get it on.

Johnny and Mare get up to leave. As they are walking out, Johnny begins to laugh.

MARE

What is it?

JOHNNY

This is college, huh?

MARE

More or less.

The two exit hand in hand.

Lights down.