

THE LAMPSHADE
The College Years
by
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Series Finale : The End of Dates

THE LAMPSHADE

Series Finale: Revelations - The End of Dates

INT. JOHNNY & B'S DORMROOM - DAY

The dorm room we've come to know and love, and for once it's pretty clean, almost sparse.

On Johnny's bed is a large suitcase partially packed. Johnny is packing it some more.

B sits watching Johnny while playing with the basketball.

Johnny suddenly stops packing and lets out a SIGH OF FRUSTRATION.

B
Not enough underwear?

JOHNNY
I can't do this.

B
Folding can be tricky.

JOHNNY
I mean I can't leave for winter break when I'm still thinking about Gwen. I've got to figure things out. I've got to tell Gwen I have feelings for her.

Johnny starts to move toward the door. B blocks him, but sliding the chest into Johnny's way.

B
No, you don't.

JOHNNY
I have to.

Johnny tries to make a run again, but B once again stops him, this time by moving the entire couch.

B
Just think...

JOHNNY
I've spent enough time thinking.
I've got to act.

Johnny makes a run, but B blocks him with a chair, which B sits Johnny down into.

B
What about Mare?

JOHNNY
Ever since last week, when we fought, she's been very distant. And besides if I don't know how I feel about Gwen, I'm not being fair to Mare.

B
Fair... Mare... Listen to yourself, you're still rhyming about her.

JOHNNY
Thanks, buddy, but I have to.

Johnny head fakes B, making B stumble and fall over the chair. Then Johnny bolts out the door.

B quickly rushes to the phone and dials a number and impatiently waits.

B
(into phone urgently)
Gwen! Meet me in the basement lounge as quickly as possible... Well, you say I never take you anywhere... Okay, you never said that... You're not going! Yes, It's urgent... Good, see you in a minute.

B hangs up the phone and rushes toward the door.

He opens the door, to find Mare standing on the other side. She barges in.

B
Mare!

MARE
Hey, B. Where's Johnny?

B
Don't know.

MARE
I'll go ask Gwen...

Mare starts to leave, but B stops her.

B
No!

MARE
What?

B
You can't see Gwen.

MARE
Why?

B
She's got mad cow, and is running
around and moo-ing like crazy.

MARE
Huh?

B
Why do you want to see Johnny so
bad?

MARE
I've been acting weird lately, but I
realized... before we leave for
break... I know it's kinda corny,
but I really want to tell him... I
love him.

B doesn't know what to say.

Mare turns to leave, opens the door, and finds Gwen, somewhat
out of breath.

MARE
Gwen!

GWEN
Hey, Mare. Have you seen...
(see B)
B, what is it?

B
Well, it's just that...
(beat)
How'd you get here so fast?

GWEN
You sounded so freaked out, so I
rushed downstairs and when you
weren't there, I came up here to
find you.

MARE
Did you see Johnny?

GWEN
Johnny? No.

MARE
I'm gonna go find him.

Mare exits.

GWEN
What's so important?

B
Penguins. Marauding penguins. I thought they were gonna attack and the basement is the only safe place. Cuz you wouldn't think it, but those penguin bites, they sting.

GWEN
B, there's no penguins.

B
Yes, maybe we should go out and make sure there's no penguins.

B grabs a coat and throws it over Gwen shoulders. Gwen fights against him.

GWEN
B, there's no...

Johnny reenters, but doesn't see Gwen.

B quickly pushes Gwen into the closet.

JOHNNY
Couldn't find Gwen.

B
Really? She was just out in the hall.

JOHNNY
She was...

B
Sure was.

B pushes Johnny out the door and slams it behind him.

Gwen reenters from the closet.

GWEN
B, you're acting...

B
Listen, Gwen, will you trust me on
this? We need to get out of here.

GWEN
Okay.

B
Let's take the secret passage I
made through the closet.

B leads Gwen into the closet and the two exit.

Johnny reenters a moment later.

JOHNNY
B, I didn't see Gw...
(beat)
Where'd he go?

Mare reenters.

MARE
B, did Johnny...
(beat)
Johnny, I've been looking for you.

JOHNNY
Really?

MARE
Yeah, I wanted to talk to you.

JOHNNY
'Bout what?

MARE
About us.

JOHNNY
What about us?

MARE
About how I've been acting the last
week.

JOHNNY
Yeah, you've been...

MARE
Been what?

JOHNNY
Well, you know a little crazy.

MARE
I'm sorry... But you did attack my
father when he came to visit.

JOHNNY
He was acting like a psycho.

MARE
You're dad's a psycho.

JOHNNY
You've never met my dad!

MARE
You've never invited me too!

JOHNNY
I live on the East Coast it's a
little difficult.

MARE
Yeah... Well... My dad's in the
army!

JOHNNY
I know that!

MARE
Good!

JOHNNY
Fine!

MARE
Good!

Johnny, not sure what else to say, storms out of the room.

Mare is left looking flustered.

MARE
I love you.
(beat)
That's not how that was supposed to
work out.

Gwen reenters from the closet with B following.

GWEN

B, I won't let you buy me lunch unless you tell me what this is all about... Mare!

MARE

What's what all about?

B

The hokey-pokey! That's what it's all about!

GWEN

B, I'm going to go get my money, then we can do lunch, and you can explain.

B

Gwen, wait...!

Gwen exits.

B tries to run after her, but gets the door slammed in his face.

B

Ow! My nose!

MARE

B, is something up with Johnny?

B

What makes you s-ink, some-s-ing was s-up?

MARE

I tried to tell him I love him, and we ended up in a fight.

B

He's probably just on menopause.

(beat)

I don't know what menopause is.

Mare whispers in B's ear. B seems confused.

B

But that's good, then you can't get pregnant.

MARE

(ignoring the last statement)

So what's really going on with him?

B
How should I know?

MARE
B, you always seem to know what's
going on.

B
Thanks... but not in this case, I
have no idea what's going on.

MARE
What's Johnny doing?

B
Joining the ice-capades.

MARE
He's avoiding me.

B
You're talking crazy talk...

B, who has been sliding away from Mare, falls off the couch.

B
You know I'll just go get him.

MARE
What?

B
You stay here. I will go get
Johnny right now.

B rushes to the door, and opens it to find Johnny standing
with Gwen.

B
See, here's Johnny with... Gwen!

B slams the door on Johnny and Gwen.

JOHNNY AND GWEN
(from outside the door)
Ow!!!

B reopens the door.

B
Sorry, I thought...

GWEN

(cutting him off)

I hate it when you think. What's going on with both of you? Johnny, what did you want to tell me?

JOHNNY

I wanted to tell you about my...
(finally notices Mare)
Mare!

GWEN

I've met her. Is this one of those cutsie, "Let me tell you how great my girl is" things? Gag!

JOHNNY

Uh....

B

(cutting in)

Sure is. Gwen, let's go and leave these two lovebirds to it.

B grabs Gwen's arm and starts to pull Gwen toward the door.

Johnny grabs Gwen's other arm and starts to pull her back.

A brief tug-o-war ensues over the next few lines.

JOHNNY

You don't have to do that.

B

I think I do.

JOHNNY

You don't.

B

I do.

JOHNNY

No.

B

Yes.

GWEN

Hey, guys!

The guys stop pulling. Gwen pulls her arms away from both of them, then points to a spot on both of their chests.

Both the guys look down at the spots and Gwen flicks them both in the face.

GWEN
Knock it off.

B
You're right. And you're right,
Johnny. We'll stay and you and
Mare can go.

B pulls the coat off Gwen and puts it on Mare. He then tries to push Mare and Johnny out the door.

Mare and Johnny pull away from B.

JOHNNY
We're not leaving.

B
Fine, let's all stay then.

B pushes Johnny and Mare over to the couch. B then pulls Gwen over to his bed and sits next to her.

There is a long awkward pause.

B
This is nice. You guys want to
play Scrabble?

MARE
What's going on?

GWEN
Yeah.

Johnny stands.

JOHNNY
Well, actually...

B jumps up and covers Johnny's mouth.

B
Nothing.

GWEN
Okay, I've got finish packing.
I'll see you guys.

Gwen exits. Johnny goes to follow.

JOHNNY
I should make sure she's alright.

B
No, I'll go.

B pulls Johnny back, then moves for the door himself.

Johnny jumps onto B's back.

JOHNNY
I said, I'd go.

B
I'm letting you off the hook.

B drops to his back and squashes Johnny.

Johnny grabs B and puts him in a headlock.

JOHNNY
You don't need to do that!

B
(gasping)
Wait! I've got an idea! Why don't
we let Mare go?

JOHNNY
What?

Johnny lets go of B.

B
I was thinking since she and Gwen
are starting to become friends,
maybe Mare could go check on Gwen.

MARE
Sounds good. I think you two have
some stuff to work out.

Mare exits.

JOHNNY
What're you doing?

Johnny slaps B forcefully.

B
I'm saving you from making a big
mistake.

B slaps Johnny make... much less forcefully.

JOHNNY

It's my mistake to make.

Johnny tries to slap B again, B catches it and pushes Johnny's arm away. Johnny's arm swings away, and then right back, and slaps B again.

B

I don't want to let you make it.

JOHNNY

Fine, I'll tell everyone if I have to. But I have to find out with Gwen.

B

I won't let you.

Johnny tries to slap B again. B catches it and pushes it away. When it swings back, B ducks under it with a "Ha Ha!"

But then Johnny's arm swings back and backhands B from the other direction.

JOHNNY

Why won't you let me do this?

B

Cuz deep down I'm a romantic and I want to see you and Mare together forever.

(beat)

What I can't have layers? C'mon, picture it, you and Mare old and happy together, with me still around to cause some trouble.

Music and lights rise for a slight transition.

B rushes out.

A much older Mare reenters.

Johnny grabs a wig and some glasses or something and transforms into a much older Johnny.

Old Johnny and Old Mare begin to slow dance.

OLD MARE

This is so romantic, bringing me back to the old dorm room.

OLD JOHNNY
Is that where we are? I've got no
idea how we got here.

OLD MARE
Still the same old kidder.

OLD JOHNNY
No, seriously. How the hell'd we
get here?

OLD MARE
Shut up and kiss me.

The kiss short and sweet.

OLD JOHNNY
Hey, I think those pills are
kicking in, maybe we can...

OLD MARE
Sweep me off my feet.

Old Johnny with great difficulty lifts up Old Mare and with
Great difficulty moves her to the bed, where they both
collapse into a funny position on the bed.

OLD MARE
This isn't working so well.

OLD JOHNNY
I think I dislocated my pelvis.

OLD MARE
Oh, that was your best move.

OLD JOHNNY
Well, let's get on with it.

The two kiss again.

B comes charging in with a walker or something. He moves
behind the couch and falls down.

OLD B
We are in so much trouble!

OLD JOHNNY
(squinting)
B, is that you?

OLD B
What's left of me.

OLD JOHNNY
B, you're ruining my game. Let me
get my mac on.

OLD B
There's no time for that. We're in
trouble.

An extremely old Gwen enters, probably with a huge padded
ass.

OLD GWEN
That's right, you are in trouble.

OLD B
It was the Geriatric Mutant Ninja
Turtles.

OLD GWEN
It never ends with you...
(noticing Johnny & Mare)
Johnny, Mare! How good to see you!

OLD MARE
You too, Gwen. Still running the
dorm after all these years?

OLD GWEN
Well, you know. And you're still
together?

OLD MARE
Yeah, he's nice even though he's
all wrinkly.

OLD JOHNNY
It's not like I can see what she
looks like anymore anyway.

OLD GWEN
(indicating Old B)
And you stuck with him too?

B has sat on the couch and fallen asleep. He starts snoring
loudly.

OLD MARE
Oh, B.

OLD JOHNNY
B, B, B...

OLD GWEN
Oh, B, you so crazy!

The older versions start to laugh. B awakes, looks bewildered, and then joins the laughing.

The lights and music transition. Gwen and Mare exit.

Johnny and B shed their old costumes and return to their earlier positions.

B
(wistfully to himself)
No, Gwen, you so crazy... You are!

JOHNNY
B!

B
Sorry.

JOHNNY
That's not how things will necessarily be. We're in college, things change, we're young, we're finding out who we are, and that's what I have to do. I have to find out who I am.

B
I guess I can't argue with that.
(moves to let Johnny leave)
But just remember that you'll always be Johnny... who I can take any time, any place.

JOHNNY
What? You wish.

B
Nevermind, just go.

JOHNNY
I'm not falling for this. I am going.

B
Fine... Chicken.

JOHNNY
Nobody calls me chicken. You're going down.

Johnny chases B. B runs around the couch once, and then dives out the window.

Johnny dives out right after him.

Just then, Mare and Gwen reenter.

MARE
Okay, guys, we need... Where are they?

GWEN
That's weird.

MARE
They've got to be around here.

Mare looks in the closet, and Gwen looks under B's bed.

As the girls are looking, Johnny reaches to climb back in the window, but B grabs him and pulls him back out.

GWEN
I'll ask, if anyone's seen them.

Gwen opens the door, and Mare goes over to stand next to her.

As Gwen is speaking the next line, B climbs back onto the window sill and does a flying elbow out at Johnny.

GWEN
(out the door)
Hey, Harvey, have you seen Johnny or B? Okay... Okay... I just asked if you'd seen them, I didn't ask for your life story.

Gwen slams the door shut.

MARE
I wonder where they are?

B falls back in the window.

GWEN
B, what're you doing?

B
Bird-watching.

GWEN
Bird-watching? It's winter.

B
That's why it's so interesting to see a bird.

MARE
Where's Johnny?

B
Out there. He tried to pull me
back and fell out himself. Some
one should go check on him.

MARE
I'll go.

Mare exits out the door.

B
Gwen, we've got to get out of here.
I swear, I'll explain...

Johnny emerges from the closet and hits B with a frying pan.

B giggles and stumbles into the closet.

B
(dazed)
Chuck E. Cheese, that's a funny
name.

Johnny sets the frying pan behind the couch.

GWEN
Johnny, what's going on?

JOHNNY
I can explain. It's just that...
I... Can we sit down?

Johnny and Gwen sit on the chest.

GWEN
Okay, you're freaking me out. Are
you and B in love?

JOHNNY
What?! No! I'm in love with you!

GWEN
What?!

Gwen pushes Johnny off the chest.

JOHNNY
Ow! Okay, not in love, but I have
feelings for you, and I have to
know.

GWEN

Know what?

Johnny brushes back Gwen's hair and takes her face in his hands. (Wow, that sounds so lame and un-sexy when I write it)

Johnny and Gwen look into each others eyes, swallow hard, close their eyes and start to lean in for the kiss.

Mare reenters to see this. Mare covers her ears in disbelief and sinks behind the couch.

Johnny and Gwen pull apart before they kiss.

JOHNNY

(softly to himself)

Mare...

Mare softly whimpers from behind the couch.

JOHNNY

(to Gwen)

Did you hear something?

GWEN

(softly to herself)

B...

B suddenly reenters from the closet rubbing his head.

GWEN

B!

B

I saw the whole thing. My vision's a little blurry from a certain frying pan, but I think I got the general idea. See you guys later.

B exits, walking in front of the couch.

Gwen starts to follow, going behind the couch and see Mare.

GWEN

Oh my god, Mare!

Mare grabs the frying pan and hits Gwen with it.

GWEN

(dazed)

Look a platypus. Hello platypus.

Gwen crumbles to the couch and passes out.

JOHNNY

Mare, how long have you...?

Mare hits Johnny in the arm, Johnny winces.

JOHNNY

Funny bone! Funny bone! Geez that tingles.

Mare runs past Johnny and into the closet.

Johnny is about to follow, but stops to cover Gwen with a blanket, then chases Mare into the closet.

B reenters.

B

And another thing, you could've...

(beat)

Great! No one's even here, no one wants to listen to B.

B picks up the basketball.

B

I was just trying to help.

Mare reaches in the window.

B tosses the basketball out the window. Mare ducks it.

There's a loud "OOFFFFF!!!" from Johnny.

B helps Mare into the room.

B

Mare let me help you. Are you okay?

MARE

Oh yeah, I'm a barrel of monkeys.

B

What does that mean anyway?

MARE

I don't know, but you know what I do know?

B

What?

MARE

It's our turn to get back at them.

B

What?

MARE

Johnny and Gwen went behind our back, it's time we got a little, right?

B

(after a moment)

Yeah, you're right. Why should we get walked all over?

MARE

Exactly. I've always liked you B.

B

And I've always been into you, Mare.

MARE

You're sweet and really funny.

B

You're smart and beautiful.

MARE

Thanks.

B

Thank you.

MARE

I feel like I can always count on you, B.

B

You can.

Mare and B look into each other's eyes, and B takes Mare's face in his hands (still sound weird). They lean forward and just as they're about to kiss they freeze.

They each twitch, and try to force each other to kiss, but it becomes more and more awkward.

Finally, they pull away.

MARE

I can't do this.

B

Me either.

Johnny climbs back in the window.

JOHNNY

Mare!

MARE

I gotta go!

JOHNNY

Mare, wait!

Mare exits out the door, and Johnny follows.

B sighs in disbelief, then goes to the couch and sits down, not realizing Gwen is there.

B sits on her, then jumps up. Gwen wakes up and sits up too.

GWEN

I hate panda bears!
 (beat - sheepishly)
 Panda bears scare me...

B

But they're so cute.

GWEN

B, I'm sorry.

B

For what?

GWEN

I realized when Johnny and I almost kissed, and I don't know why, but I still want to be with you. I really don't know why. Can you forgive me?

B

I don't know, I mean...

Gwen grabs B and starts kissing him.

B

(in between kisses)
 I'm really hurt... This isn't something that... This makes it a little better... I probably could... But I'm still mad...

B and Gwen stumble to the floor behind the couch. B suddenly stops.

B
 No, we can't.
 (beat)
 Let's make it to the bed at least
 once.

B and Gwen start to skip over to the bed, but Gwen stops him.

GWEN
 Wait, does this mean you forgive
 me?

B
 Well, yeah.

GWEN
 Why?

B
 Because I never stopped being crazy
 for you.

GWEN
 Why didn't you say something?

B
 Because I was afraid if I said
 something, and you didn't feel the
 same, you'd stop hanging around
 here all the time, and I couldn't
 handle not seeing you every day.

GWEN
 Awww...

Gwen motions toward the bed.

B
 Oh yeah!

B and Gwen rush over to the bed to get it on, as they say in
 the vernacular.

Johnny suddenly reenters alone.

B shows off the fact that he's got Gwen.

B
 Check it out, dude.

GWEN
 Johnny, you okay?

JOHNNY

Mare won't even talk to me.

GWEN

You want to talk about it?

B

Yeah, that's what we want to do.

JOHNNY

I'm sorry, B, I'm sorry, Gwen. I have managed to screw everything up.

B

I don't know, some things sort of worked out.

B and Gwen hug tightly.

JOHNNY

I just never expected things to end up like this.

Music and lights rise again. B and Gwen rush out

Johnny gets up and changes into shorts and a T-Shirt.

Music and lights lower.

A different, younger Johnny returns with a big bag over his shoulder.

JOHNNY

(bubbling with excitement)

I can't believe I'm in college now! This is awesome. Welcome, to a new life.

Johnny throws his bag onto his bed.

B suddenly enters dressed as a secret agent.

B

You! I need your help! My life depends on it!

JOHNNY

Are you my new roommate?

B

Just call me, B. It's my code name.

JOHNNY

But the letter said your name was Arthur?

(beat)

Wait, your name is B Arthur!

B

Don't tell anybody!

JOHNNY

Hey, don't worry, you're Golden... Girl.

B

Okay, but you've got to vouch for the fact that I've been here with you the whole time.

JOHNNY

But I just got here. No one with believe me.

B

Hmmmm...

B throws open the door, and pulls in the first person he sees.

It just happens to be Mare.

MARE

What's going on?

JOHNNY

Good question.

B

I need you to say I've been with you all day, no where else.

MARE

I don't even know you.

B collapses with disappointment.

B

C'mon, guys. I'm trying to play secret agent, and you're leaving me flat.

JOHNNY

Sorry, we'll play along.

MARE
Right. What can we do?

Gwen enters.

GWEN
Hey you, sneaking around guy,
what's your name?

B
B.

GWEN
(indicating Johnny)
And you, you just moved in too,
what's your name?

JOHNNY
Johnny.

GWEN
Johnny. B. Good.
(beat)
Okay, B, you're bothering people
and need to cut it out.

B
Ooooh, what're you going to do?
Punish me?

GWEN
Maybe.

B
But first... You've got to... See
ya!

B runs out the door.

Gwen shakes her head.

GWEN
This is no way the rest of the
semester can be as crazy as the
first day with him.

Gwen exits.

MARE
That was pretty funny.

JOHNNY
Yeah. Hi, I'm Johnny.

MARE

Mare.

JOHNNY

Mare? That's an interesting name.

MARE

I'm an interesting girl.

JOHNNY

I'll bet you are.

MARE

Well, Johnny, I'll see you around.
Good luck with your roommate.

JOHNNY

Mare. I think I'm gonna like it
here.

Music and lights change.

Transition back to the real world and time.

B stands next to Johnny and rubs his shoulder.

JOHNNY

Things were different then.

B

I'm sorry, buddy.

JOHNNY

No, I'm sorry, you know, if you
guys want to go up to Gwen's room
and get it on, it's fine.

B and Gwen feign resistance, but quickly break.

B & GWEN

Thank god!

B and Gwen rush out hand in hand.

GWEN

You'll be okay, Johnny, trust me.

B

We'll find you before you leave, to
say good-bye.

(to Gwen)

This has been another very farcical
day.

B and Gwen exit.

Johnny sits alone.

JOHNNY
So this is college, huh?

MARE
More or less.

Mare reenters carrying a wrapped present.

JOHNNY
Mare!

MARE
This is for you. Merry Christmas.

JOHNNY
Mare, I want you to know, Gwen and I didn't...

MARE
(cutting him off)
Didn't kiss, I know I saw. It doesn't matter.

JOHNNY
I know it doesn't matter, it's no excuse.

MARE
No, it doesn't matter, I forgive you.

JOHNNY
Really? So we're cool?

MARE
Not exactly.
(beat)
Johnny, I love you.

JOHNNY
I love you too.

MARE
I know you do, so you sure as hell better not talk to me for the next month.

JOHNNY
Okay, I'm confused.

MARE

Let's take this winter break to take stock of who we are without each other, and then maybe when we get back we can take stock again of who we are with each other.

JOHNNY

Okay then the question is...

Johnny gets a wrapped present and gives it to Mare.

JOHNNY

...Do we open these now? Or at Christmas? Or when we get back?

MARE

Let's open them at Christmas, then we can decide whether or not to be pissed or happy when we get back.

JOHNNY

I like that plan.

MARE

Great, then do you want to help me take my stuff out to the car?

JOHNNY

Don't you think we should start "Apart time" right now?

MARE

Good call.

JOHNNY

Alright, I get out of carrying, I didn't think that would work.

Mare kisses Johnny. Maybe on the cheek, maybe on the lips, it's up for discussion.

MARE

Have a great break, Johnny.

JOHNNY

You too. I'll talk to you when we get back, and I won't open this until Christmas.

MARE

Do you really expect me to trust you?

Mare exits all smiles.

Johnny, also smiling, walks over to the C.D. Player and hits "Play."

Music rises for "Super Sonic: Closing Time."

The first few sad chords play, then Johnny shakes his head and hits the C.D. Player.

The song changes to the much more uplifting "Bon Jovi: It's My Life."

Johnny smiles and dances a little, then takes the wrapped present from Mare, debates opening it, shakes his head and places it in his suitcase.

Johnny zips up the suitcase, and throws it over his shoulder.

Johnny exits.

Lights out.

THE END