THE LAMPSHADE

The College Years

by

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Play # 3 : Once Upon A Time In A Dormroom

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Episode 3: Once Upon A Time In A Dorm Room

INT. JOHNNY & B'S DORMROOM

The dormroom is actually clean for once. Johnny and Mare are sitting on the couch. Mare is wrapped in several layers of clothing, including a large blanket, a knit hat, and heavy gloves.

Johnny is trying to feed Mare some chicken soup.

B is on the ski machine.

JOHNNY

Mare, you've got to eat something.

MARE

(whimpering)

Cold... Too Cold...

JOHNNY

It's not cold, I just heated it.

MARE

Too cold... Very, very cold...

JOHNNY

Would you just try it?

В

(getting off the machine) You're not gonna win, Johnny.

JOHNNY

She's got to eat something.

MARE

Cold...

В

Face it, she's as stubborn as Kevin Costner's train wreck of a career.

JOHNNY

(ignoring B)

Mare, it's really good chicken soup.

(tastes it and winces)
And it's plenty hot.

MARE

Soooo cold...

JOHNNY

It's not.

MARE

Yes.

JOHNNY

No.

В

This is going places. I'm gonna go splash water on my face.

JOHNNY

(more forcefully)

Mare, just try it.

MARE

No, too cold!

Mare knocks the soup out of Johnny's hands and it splashes all over B. B jumps and screams in pain.

Johnny jumps up and tries to help clean off B.

В

Ow, ow, ow! Burning skin! Not fun!

JOHNNY

I'm sorry, B! I guess I heated the soup a little too much.

В

Where'd you heat it? The microwave in hell?!

MARE

B, I'm really sorry.

Mare hugs B tightly. B looks confused.

Ε

It's okay.

MARE

(with growing emotion)
No, it's not. You've been such a
good friend, and I'm sorry.

Mare starts crying on B's shoulder.

В

(extremely weirded out)
You're forgiven.

B pulls Mare off him and places her arms around Johnny.

В

I'm gonna go get some ice.

B exits.

MARE

(crying on Johnny's
 shoulder, so that her
 voice is muffled)
I'm... a... terrible... person.

JOHNNY

A what?

MARE

(still muffled)
A terrible person...

JOHNNY

Mare, stop crying, I can't understand you, did you say terrible person or horrible human?

Mare raises her head and stomps away sadly.

MARE

I said terrible person, but you're right, I'm both.

JOHNNY

That's not what I meant. You're just a terrible person. I mean, you're not.

MARE

(growing hysterical)
Who am I kidding? Of course I am!
Take B, he's supposed to be happy
and clap if he believes in fairies,
and then I come along and he...

Mare trails off into crying.

JOHNNY

Do you have the flu or mad cow?

MARE

And I ruined your soup! I'm terrible!

JOHNNY

No, you didn't! I have more!

(Johnny grabs another

thermos of soup)

Soc? You didn't ruin anything

See? You didn't ruin anything!

MARE

You're too good to me.

JOHNNY

Just cuz you deserve it.

Mare smiles sweetly, and they lean in to kiss. Just as they are about to kiss, Johnny pulls back.

JOHNNY

(scoots away from her) Sorry, but you're sick.

MARE

(scoots next to him)
This will make me feel better.

JOHNNY

(scoots again)

But it will make me worse.

MARE

(scoots next to him again) Then I can take care of you.

JOHNNY

I'd rather skip that part.

MARE

Don't you care about me? Just one kiss...

Johnny looks disgusted but, with a sigh, gives in and is about to kiss Mare.

B suddenly reenters, holding a bag of ice to his face, and slams the door, bracing himself against the door.

Johnny is surprised by B's entrance, and pushes Mare off the couch.

JOHNNY

Mare! I'm sorry!

Johnny picks Mare up off the floor and puts her back on the couch.

MARE

It's okay.

JOHNNY

(to B)

What's wrong with you?

В

Do you remember how Gwen has to do some all-hall activity, as a part of her RA-ing job?

JOHNNY

That stupid line-dancing thing?

В

Yeah. Remember how we said we'd go?

JOHNNY

Empty promise at best.

В

Not when I'm sleeping with her. She's looking for us, and she's pissed.

During this conversation, Mare takes a drink of the chicken soup. She finds it so hot that she begins to unwrap herself from her many layers of clothing. The guys don't notice.

MARE

(to herself)

Very hot.

JOHNNY

(to B)

So you're in trouble with your girlfriend, what's it got to do with me?

MARE

(continues stripping)

Too hot.

В

Johnny, all that crap you've pulled with Gwen, all the near hook-ups only to blow her off, you think she's not looking to come down on you?

JOHNNY

Good point.

(finally notices Mare)

Yikes! Mare, stop!

Mare continues stripping and she's getting very scanty.

MARE

It's so hot!

JOHNNY

Fine, we'll turn on a window or open a fan, but keep your clothes on.

B

Johnny, she can take off her clothes if she wants.

JOHNNY

Shut up, B!

MARE

I'm hot... Hot... Hot...

В

And you sound like a summer car commercial.

JOHNNY

Don't you think you could be helping?

В

Alright.

Johnny continues to struggle with Mare to put her clothes back on.

B grabs his bag of ice and throws it on Mare, who shrieks in shock and then crumbles to the floor.

JOHNNY

(to B)

Why'd you do that?

Johnny hits B over the head.

F

You said to help!

B grabs Johnny's nose between his fore and middle fingers then snaps it down.

JOHNNY

I thought you'd help by actually helping.

Johnny slaps B's head back and forth.

B knocks Johnny's hands away. Then B grabs Johnny's head and headbutts him. Both guys fall backward, groaning in pain.

B

That was stupid of me.

JOHNNY

Yeah it was.

MARE

Guys... I'm cold again.

В

I've got something to heat her up!

B grabs the thermos of hot chicken soup and moves to pour it on Mare.

Johnny jumps up and begins to fight B over the soup.

There's A KNOCK at the door. Johnny and B freeze.

ANOTHER KNOCK.

GWEN (O.S.)

You guys in there?!

MARE

Yeah, we're...

Johnny quickly covers Mare's mouth.

GWEN (O.S.)

What?! I heard that! I know you're in here!

Gwen continues to knock and yell, as Johnny drags Mare toward the window. B follows.

GWEN (O.S.)

B, if you don't come out here, you'll get no more sex for at least a week!

B's head drops and he starts to walk to the door. Johnny grabs B and pulls him back.

Mare fights Johnny by biting his hand and stepping on his foot. B tries to stop her, and she knees him in the balls.

Mare marches to the door.

JOHNNY

Stop her!

В

(falsetto)

I can't.

Johnny and B hide behind the couch.

Mare opens the door and let's Gwen in. Gwen is dressed as a cowgirl, complete with hat, guns, and a lasso.

GWEN

I knew you were here!

(beat)

Oh, Mare, it's you...

MARE

Everything okay at the... Okay Corral?

GWEN

What? Oh, my clothes... It's for the line-dancing... You look terrible.

MARE

Unfortunately I look better than I feel.

GWEN

Can I do anything?

MARE

You can stop knocking and yelling.

GWEN

Sorry. Where are the guys?

MARE

Not here.

GWEN

Alright. I'll go. Feel better, Mare.

Gwen starts to exit.

The guys celebrate with a High-Five that is too loud.

Gwen hears the SLAP, stops and turns around.

GWEN

What was that?

MARE

What was what?

GWEN

That clap?

MARE

I may be sick, but I don't have the clap.

GWEN

No.

(sniffs the air)

The guys are here, I smell their fear.

MARE

I don't know what you're <u>on</u>, but the guys are <u>gone</u>. Now if we're done rhyming will you please leave?

GWEN

In a sec.

Gwen starts to walk behind the couch. Johnny and B crawl along the floor in front of the couch.

MARE

Gwen, where are you going?! Go away, Gwen! Gwen, my fever's kicking in, I can't be responsible for what I do.

Gwen reaches the other side of the couch. Johnny and B have snuck away from her.

Gwen jumps onto the couch.

GWEN

Aha!

(but the guys are gone) Not here. Where are they?

Gwen starts to move the other side of the couch, looking at both sides and keeping the guys from being about to sneak away.

MARE

Gwen, stop you can't... What is that?

GWEN

What?

MARE

On your face.

GWEN

(overly worried)

What about my face?

MARE

It looks funny.

GWEN

Funny like a zit, or funny like unblended make-up, but then what would you know about make-up, it's a zit isn't it?

MARE

I'll get it.

Mare starts to rub at Gwen's face, then begins rubbing the air, violently waving at the air.

GWEN

Mare, what's wrong?

MARE

Baby, you got real ugly.

GWEN

Are you hallucinating?

MARE

I think... You stole my land.

(beat)

You and you're cowboy friends. You stole my land, killed the buffalo and only left us casinos!

GWEN

Mare, you're acting...

MARE

Revenge!

Mare charges at Gwen. Gwen runs and Mare chases her.

The guys have to be constantly moving to avoid Gwen running into them. They manage to make it into the closet.

Gwen runs to the door and is about to run out. Suddenly Gwen stops and faces Mare with a fury.

Mare also stops, looking confused.

GWEN

Nice try, but not enough. Those guys are here and I don't care how sick or pasty-faced you are, or that you're so messed up that you think I'm the white rabbit for you to chase. You're not getting in between me and them.

MARE

(weakly)

'Kay.

Gwen starts to march back into the room toward the closet.

Mare gets into Gwen's way, then holds up a finger to "Hold on one sec."

GWEN

What?

(Mare sneezes)

Bless you.

MARE

Thank you.

Gwen tries to march, but Mare raises a finger again, and sneezes.

GWEN

Bless you.

MARE

Thank you.

Mare holds up another finger before Gwen can even move.

GWEN

That's enough, get out of my way.

Mare sneezes in Gwen's face.

GWEN

That's disgust...
(Mare is about to sneeze again)

Don't...

Gwen jumps back and narrowly avoids Mare's sneeze. Mare goes into a sneezing fit. Gwen jumps away in disgust. Mare follows Gwen for a second, but quickly chases Gwen out of the room. As Gwen runs out, Mare slams the door behind her, and immediately stops sneezing. Johnny and B jump out of the closet happily and exchange a high-five.

MARE

Now, who's pasty-faced?

В

(to Mare)
You still are.

JOHNNY

Shut up!

Johnny rushes over to Mare and gives her a kiss - Johnny pulls away realizing she's sick and grimaces, but Mare grabs him and gives him a big kiss - Johnny pulls away finally - B pulls a bottle of mouthwash from the closet and tosses it to Johnny - Johnny takes a big swig and swishes it around.

В

Nice work, Mare.

MARE

I know.

Mare reaches into her purse and pulls out a Zima and starts to swig from it - Johnny sees this and spits his mouthwash all over B.

Е

Son of a...

B takes a towel and wipes off his face.

JOHNNY

Mare, what is that?

MARE

Zima, Heidi down the hall said it tastes like 7-Up. I thought it'd help settle my stomach.

JOHNNY

Zima's alcoholic. How many'd you have?

MARE

Four before I came down and this one.

JOHNNY

You get drunk on two beers. Five Zima's, and you'll be wasted. Give me the Zima.

MARE

No.

JOHNNY

Give it.

MARE

No.

JOHNNY

Mare, give it.

MARE

Just try and take it.

Mare starts to run for the door - Johnny sprints to the door and beats her there - Mare tries to run around the back of the couch - B blocks her path - Mare climbs over the couch - Johnny and B run around and corner Mare.

JOHNNY

Grab her!

The guys both run at Mare - Mare ducks and crawls through B's legs and starts toward the window - The guys collide into each other's arms.

JOHNNY

She's headed for the window.

В

I got her.

Mare is climbing on the window sill - B pushes Johnny away and runs over to Mare - B pulls Mare off the window - Mare turns and splashes B in the face with some of the Zima.

F

Son of a...

B grabs a towel again, and wipes off his face.

Mare jumps on the couch and starts running toward the door again - Johnny jumps up on the other end of the couch to block her - Johnny grabs her hand, he steps down off the couch and tries to pull her down too - Suddenly Mare starts to look like she's gonna puke.

MARE

I'm gonna be sick!

Johnny let's go of Mare's hand, and he and B dive to the floor as far as they can from Mare - Mare stops looking like she will puke, she laughs and runs across the couch and quickly out the door.

JOHNNY

I'm going after her. You stay here, in case she comes back.

Johnny runs out door.

В

This is getting crazy.

Johnny suddenly comes running back in - Mare is chasing him waving a now broken Zima bottle at him - She chases him around and around the couch - B stands dumbfounded, not knowing what to do.

JOHNNY

Put the broken bottle down, Mare.

MARE

You won't let me be healthy.

JOHNNY

(to B)

Help me, B.

В

How?

JOHNNY

Stop her.

Johnny and Mare continue to circle around the couch - B grabs a pillow and hits Mare in the face with it - Mare falls back onto the couch and falls over - Johnny takes the bottle from Mare.

JOHNNY

What'd you do?

В

Is she okay?

Mare starts to snore.

B (CONT'D)

Guess so.

JOHNNY

Okay. What do we have to sober her up?

В

(going to fridge) Beer and liquor.

JOHNNY

No help. Alright, I'm gonna go find coffee or something, stay here and keep an eye on her.

Ε

Good plan.

Johnny walks over to the door - Before Johnny can open the door, it opens suddenly, Johnny hides behind the door, B drops to floor behind the couch - Gwen enters suddenly.

GWEN

Got ya!

(but she doesn't see anyone)

Darn, where are they?

Gwen exits - B gets up from floor.

В

(to Johnny)

You still going for the coffee?

JOHNNY

Have to, for the woman I love.

В

Be careful.

(Johnny exits)

He's done for.

(Pause)

I should help him... Hey, chicken soup!

B picks up the thermos of chicken noodle soup and eats a spoonful - Mare wakes up and sees this.

MARE

You!

R

I was just gonna give it to you.

B tries to feed her a spoonful.

MARE

It's still too hot.

В

It's ice cold.

MARE

Too hot.

B

Fine, I'll put it on the window.
(B puts soup on window)

What can I do for you?

MARE

Sit here.

(B sits next to her)

Snuggle with me.

Mare puts her arms around B.

Ε

(jumping up)

No, Johnny!

(When B jumps, Mare falls

off couch)

No, Mare! You okay?

MARE

(getting up)

Better than okay, Johnny.

Mare starts moving toward B - B backs away coming closer and closer to the closet.

В

Oh, you think I'm Johnny. I'm not Johnny, I'm...

MARE

Whatever.

Mare grabs B and they both fall back into the closet - B comes back out quickly.

P

Mare, listen you're sick, I'm not Johnny.

MARE

(coming in with frying pan)

In that case I have to get rid of you.

В

Mare, don't!

Mare chases after B - She swings at him once and he ducks it - She swings at his feet and he jumps it - She is about to hit him over the head, but B catches her hands above her head.

P

Look, over there!

Mare looks behind her - B pulls the pan from her hands.

B (CONT'D)

I gotta get out of here!

B runs to the window and jumps out with the frying pan still in hand, being careful not to knock over soup.

Mare chases after him, but just as she reaches the window there is a chicken "sqwak" - Mare stops dead and looks around - another "sqwak" - Mare quickly looks around the room - another "sqwak" - Mare comes back to the window, she pokes the soup with her finger, another "sqwak" - Mare backs up and stands on the couch, looking scared.

Lights dim, fog filters in, music rises ["I just dropped in to see what condition my condition was in" - from Big Lebowski] - Johnny, Gwen and B all enter dressed and acting like chickens - The chickens circle around Mare as she stands on the couch - After a little bit, the chickens start to do a dance, Mare relaxes and laughs at the chickens, and eventually does the dance with them - The chickens dance back out of the room.

Lights raise, fog disappears, music fades - Mare is left standing on the couch dancing by herself and humming the song - Mare happily dances off the couch and out the door -As Mare is dancing out, Gwen comes to the door.

GWEN

Mare, are you alright?

(Mare happily dances past

Gwen)

I'll take that as a "yes".

(Gwen starts to sniff the

air)

B's here.

Gwen walks into the room, leaving the door open, and starts sniffing around - As she begins sniffing the bed, B pops his head in from the window, he sees Gwen and quietly shrieks - B drops down again, but Gwen spins around and starts moving toward the window - Once Gwen reaches the window, Johnny pops his head in the door, he sees Gwen and shrieks - Gwen spins around and goes toward the door and out - After moment, Johnny sneaks in the door and closes it behind him, he breathes a sigh of relief - Johnny goes over to the window, looks out and down - Johnny grabs B by the hair and pulls B in the window.

В

Ow, ow, ow! Let go of me!
(Johnny let's go of B's hair)

Did you know Gwen could smell fear?

JOHNNY

No.

B
It was pretty hot, huh?

JOHNNY

Oh yeah, but off topic. Where's Mare?

В

Don't know.

(Johnny looks shocked and slaps B)

Ow, I had to bail,

Johnny tries to slap B again, B catches Johnny's hand, Johnny quickly slaps B with the other hand.

B (CONT'D)

Ow, she was freaking me out.

Johnny again tries to slap B, but B catches both hands this time, but Johnny is talking to B next to the couch, so Johnny pushes B over the arm of the couch.

JOHNNY

I've gotta find her. Stay here in case she comes back.

Е

No, I feel bad, I'll go and risk running into Gwen. You stay, I'll find her.

B sneaks out the front door.

JOHNNY

I don't believe this. I can't trust him for anything. She was passed out, how hard could it be to keep an eye on her?

(There's a knock)

Thank god.

(Johnny opens the door)

Mare!

GWEN

(entering)

No, my name's Gwen. We've met, you said you'd come to my activity.

JOHNNY

Gwen, I'm sorry, it's just... see ya!

Johnny makes a run for the window.

GWEN

Not so fast.

Gwen throws a lasso around Johnny and pulls him back - Johnny squirms away, but Gwen ties up his hands and feet.

GWEN

See wouldn't it have been easier to come and dance a few minutes?

JOHNNY

Yes, I'm sorry.

GWEN

You will be.

JOHNNY

It wasn't my fault. I had to take care of Mare, she's sick.

GWEN

I've been by here a few times, I saw Mare but no you. Nice try, though.

JOHNNY

Actually B convinced me...

GWEN

(stuffing a gag into Johnny's mouth)

I don't need to hear any more excuses.

MARE

(entering)

Then let's see some action.

Mare walks into the room and up to Gwen - Mare looks over Gwen, then takes Gwen's hat, and one of Gwen's guns - Gwen looks confused.

GWEN

You got something to say?

MARE

I'm calling you out.

GWEN

You think you can take me, pilgrim?

MARE

I'm sick of your terrorizing.

GWEN

What are you saying?

MARE

There's a new sheriff in town.

GWEN

And what're you going to do?

MARE

It's time to draw.

GWEN

You better watch yourself, or you'll go the way of the buffalo.

MARE

Giddy-up.

Gwen and Mare both take several steps apart from one another - They stand eyeing one another both getting ready to draw.

Old western music rises - Johnny is still tied up anxiously watching all of this from the floor.

Suddenly both the girls draw and start pulling the triggers on their plastic guns - Mare screams out and drops to the floor, she begins an overly dramatic death scene.

MARE

You got me, but there will be more to take my place. When I die I will become more powerful than you can ever imagine.

(MORE)

MARE (cont'd)

Cut me down and there will be a hundred to take my place.

GWEN

MARE

(stopping crying) I know. Gotcha!

Mare suddenly grabs Gwen's hair and starts pulling it - Gwen yells out, then grabs a pillow off the couch and hits Mare with it - Mare lets go of Gwen's hair and stumbles back - Johnny sees all this and struggles to get to his feet, he begins hopping around toward the girls.

The girls begin to do a girl fight thing, with Gwen swinging the pillow and Mare slapping at Gwen - Gwen disengages and tries to run away Mare- Johnny gets in Gwen's way, and Gwen pushes him over - Gwen pulls out her fake gun again.

Mare sees the gun and turns to run away - Mare trips over Johnny as Johnny still lays on the floor.

GWEN

Can we calm down now?

MARE

That didn't make me feel good.

Mare gets up and looks again like she's going to puke - Gwen backs away - Johnny rolls away - Mare gets behind the couch and throws up on the floor behind the couch.

GWEN

That's gross.

JOHNNY

Mmm-hmmm.

MARE

Now get out yourself.

Mare closes in on Gwen - Gwen is about to climb out the window - B suddenly runs into the room.

В

I couldn't find...

(slips on the puke behind

the couch)

That's disgusting.

(B gets up)

That's just wrong.

B looks and sees Gwen half out the window, Johnny tied up, and Mare looking crazy.

B (CONT'D)

What's going on here?

GWEN

We've been having lots of laughs.

(to Johnny and Mare)

Isn't that right, guys?

JOHNNY

(mumbles a lot with the
 gag still in)

MARE

I feel dizzy.

Mare passes out on top of Johnny.

В

I guess, I'll leave you guys to it then.

B starts to exit.

GWEN

You're not going anywhere.

Gwen chases after B, they exit.

Johnny starts squirming and mumbling - after a second, Mare wakes up - she begins to untie him.

MARE

Sorry about this.

JOHNNY

It's alright,

(sarcastically)

it's been really sexy.

MARE

Glad to hear.

She kisses him.

JOHNNY

You puked recently didn't you? (Mare nods)

I can tell.

MARE

Where'd the other two go?

JOHNNY

Gwen chased out B.

MARE

She'll catch him in no time.

JOHNNY

Oh yeah, he's dead.

B reenters carrying Gwen on his back - Gwen is riding B like a stallion and whipping him with her rope.

Ε

Ow! Stop! Ow! Stop!

GWEN

Yee-Haw!

B stumbles once in the center of room and buckles from carrying Gwen - They both fall to the floor, and Gwen puts her pistol in B's mouth.

GWEN

You oughta be ashamed of yourself.

В

May I just say one thing?

GWEN

Yes, one, and it better be good.

Gwen takes gun from his mouth.

В

It is.

(B grabs Gwen and kisses her)

Let's have make-up sex.

GWEN

Okay.

B and Gwen start to pull each other's clothes off - B and Gwen start to make crazy animal noises - Johnny and Mare watch this uncomfortably.

JOHNNY

(clearing his throat)
Guys! We're still here.

GWEN

(getting up)

Sorry.

В

(getting up)

'Bout what? I knew they were here.

JOHNNY

Dude, that's sick.

В

It's no worse than that time, you hooked up with Mare in your bed when you thought I was sleeping.

MARE

You were awake?

В

Oh yeah.

JOHNNY

Why didn't you say something?

В

I did, I kept saying, "Oh Johnny!"

JOHNNY

That was you?

MARE

It wasn't me.

(Johnny looks at Mare

stunned)

Sorry... you weren't at your best.

GWEN

Okay, I'm gonna cut you both off there.

MARE

Very good.

R

Alright, let's go back to your place and get it on.

GWEN

Just let me do one thing first.

В

Cool.

Gwen turns to leave and as she gets to the door, Johnny stops her.

JOHNNY

Wait, how did you have to time to chase us around all day, weren't you supposed to be at your own program?

GWEN

Nobody showed up. I figured I'd mess with you guys to make myself feel better.

JOHNNY

Glad to make you feel better.

В

Yeah.

GWEN

Much appreciated. I'll be right back.

Gwen exits.

JOHNNY

Another close one, eh buddy?

В

Yeah. Do you think all semester will be like this?

JOHNNY

I doubt it.

MARE

Knowing you guys, I bet you'll find a way.

Gwen reenters carrying two bowls of ice cream.

GWEN

I got ice cream for the line dance, but since no one showed up, there's a lot left. Will you guys help eat some?

В

Yeah we will.

Johnny and B jump up to go get the ice cream - Gwen smiles and puts the bowls in the guys faces - Gwen takes B by the hand and starts to lead him out of the room.

P

The jokes on you, Gwen, you'll be the one eating this off my naked body.

GWEN

Let's go to my room and talk...
(After a thought)
...And probably have sex.

Gwen and B exit hand in hand - Mare goes up to Johnny, she wipes some of the ice cream off his face, and puts it into her bowl of chicken soup - Mare then takes a spoonful of the soup and eats it.

MARE

It's not too hot anymore.

JOHNNY

We should get you to bed.

MARE

Sweep me off my feet.

Johnny picks up Mare and carries her out of the room - Mare licks some of the ice cream off of Johnny's face.

MARE

(with a laugh)

I'm like your puppy.

JOHNNY

Don't be mad if I don't call you that. Are you sure you should be eating anything, you can't really keep much down?

MARE

T'll be fine.

Johnny carries Mare out of the room - As they are just out the door, there is the loud sound of Mare puking.

JOHNNY (from outside) That's disgusting.

Lights down.