## THE LAMPSHADE

The College Years

by

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Play # 4 : To Catch A Terrorist

## The Lampshade

Episode 4: To Catch a Terrorist

INT. JOHNNY & B'S DORM ROOM - DAY

The dorm room is once again a mess, with beer cans and bottle scattered throughout and the bong sitting prominently out on the desk. The room is empty except for B who is passed out half on/half off the bed.

Suddenly an alarm clock goes off and B wakes up, grabbing his head from what seems to be an intense hangover. He stumbles, possibly/probably tripping over several things, around looking for the alarm.

В

(finds the alarm clock on
 the desk and turns it
 off)

I need a drink.

B goes over to the fridge and pulls out a half drunken forty.

JOHNNY

(entering with Mare)

Look who's alive!

MARE

I'm not sure he is, do you smell that?

B

Haha, where were you?

MARE

We went and got breakfast.

JOHNNY

Starting early?

В

Only way to cure a hangover. I think I'll just stay drunk as a skunk all day. A skunk that likes to drink malt beer.

MARE

You definitely smell like a skunk.

JOHNNY

Is that a good thing for a...?

Too late.

B raises the forty and begins to chug it. Johnny shrugs and Mare shakes her head:

Music rises ["Flight of the Bumblebees"] and the three of them go into a fast forward version of the day

- \*\* B finishes the forty Johnny tosses him 1-2-3 beers which B chugs and crushes on the table
- \*\* B then picks a fight with Johnny they sumo wrestle, then go to regular wrestling Johnny easily pins B Mare acts as referee, when she says Johnny pins B, B gets in her face, and Mare throws him "outta here"
- \*\* B grabs the bong and stomps into the closet a puff of smoke comes out of closet, then B stumbles out looking very happy and laughing B grabs Johnny and Mare by the hands and they dance around in a circle
- \*\* B climbs over the couch to the fridge and opens it to only find one beer left, he quickly chugs it then rushes from the room
- \*\* Johnny and Mare shrug, Mare gives Johnny a kiss then leaves, Johnny pulls out a textbook and begins studying B returns with a case of beer under each arm B takes a beer out of one box, begins drinking it, then goes over to Johnny and knocks the book out of his hands
- \*\* B runs over to the phone, makes a call, then rushes Johnny out of the room - Gwen shows up, B grabs her and pulls her behind the couch - After a second they both get up straightening their clothes - Gwen exits
- \*\* Johnny and Mare show up again arm in arm B hands Johnny a beer and B grabs one himself The guys both chug several beers together Mare grabs a blanket and puts it over B's shoulders then walks B over to the bed B passes out Mare and Johnny look at each other then snuggle on the couch and go to sleep.

Music stops and alarm sounds again.

B, Mare, and Johnny all groggily get up. B stumbles and turns off the alarm again.

JOHNNY

(to B)
How ya feelin'?

(in response goes to the cases pulls out a beer and is about to drink-stops)

What day is it?

MARE

Thursday, you spent all Wednesday drunk.

В

I've got a paper due.

JOHNNY

On what?

В

My day yesterday.

JOHNNY

Should be interesting.

B

Yup, I was blacked out all day. Don't remember a thing.

MARE

Well, good luck, I've got to get to class.

(kisses Johnny good-bye) See ya, guys.

Mare exits.

JOHNNY

So what are you gonna do?

В

Are we not college students?

JOHNNY

Yes.

В

So I will do what all college students excel at.

JOHNNY & B

(together)
Bullshitting.

Johnny grabs a textbook, and sits on the floor leaning against the bed. B sits at the computer [or typewriter or whatever] and cracks his knuckles, and begins to type.

В

(narrating as he types)
"It was dark and stormy day...."

**JOHNNY** 

No, it wasn't.

В

So?

JOHNNY

She'll know you're making it up.

Е

Like she knows what the weather was like at our dorm yesterday.

JOHNNY

I think she will.

В

Trust me.

(Goes back to writing)
"It was a dark and stormy day. The storm seemed to cast a sense of evil foreboding over my simple dorm room. However my roommate and I were undeterred, as we both worked diligently and purposefully on our studies. My roommate Johnny, a tall, somewhat skinny fellow with a light complexion...,"

**JOHNNY** 

(interrupting)

Do I have a light complexion?

B

May I please write this?

**JOHNNY** 

Sorry.

В

"A tall, somewhat skinny fellow with a light complexion, who at times fancied himself a surfer, said to me, 'Gee, these studies are difficult.'" There is a brief musical interlude [no more than 3 or 4 seconds] to show that the guys are now acting out B's story.

Johnny stands and says B's line.

JOHNNY

Gee, these studies are difficult.

В

Yes, I know, my faux surfer roommate, but nonetheless we must persevere in these difficult studies to obtain the most of our higher education.

**JOHNNY** 

But why, my extraordinarily smart and handsome friend?

B

So, my somewhat slow at grasping complex theories counterpart, we can take our place as useful members of society, playing our little parts for the betterment of society as a whole.

JOHNNY

So, by serving society and the republic we become free?

В

That's the simplified idea, my Socrates studying, but not fully understanding chum. Now go back to your studies.

Johnny happily goes back to his reading. B sits back at the computer/whatever. Suddenly there is a voice from outside the window.

KAI

(voice from outside)
But we must challenge and destroy
society to arrive at a better
system, my cave-dwelling comrades.

В

Who dares make a pun at Plato's "The Republic"?

KAI

(jumping in and standing on the window sill)

Me!

В

Who are you?

KAI

A terrorist genius!

The terrorist laughs sinisterly, so much so that he loses his balance and falls backward out the window.

A BRIEF MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Johnny stands up.

JOHNNY

A terrorist? Are you serious?

В

Yes.

JOHNNY

Of all the tasteless things you've done, this might cap it. What's next some California governor going to save the day?

В

(trying to hide his
 disappointment)

No...

JOHNNY

And what's with how we talk? We sound like Dawson and Pacey.

В

Hey, who's story is this?

JOHNNY

Yours.

В

So knock it off. These perception shifts are killer.

Johnny sits back down by the bed, B stays by computer.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

The terrorist jumps back onto windowsill.

R

You're a terrorist?

KAI

Look at me. Of course, I'm a terrorist.

В

Don't you live down the hall from us?

KAI

I'm a terrorist!

R

What's your name?

KAI

Kai!

В

Kai? Isn't that Japanese or something?

KAI

So?

В

You're not Japanese... at all.

KAI

Not for lack of wishing, my real name's Kevin. But my Japanese-slash-terrorist-Dragonball Z name is... Kai!

B stifles a laugh.

В

That's a stupid terrorist name, it should be Hans Gruber or He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named or...

KAI

Shut up!

В

Okay, Kai.

(another stifled laugh)
Come on, Johnny, let's kick Kevin's
ass.

**JOHNNY** 

No.

No?

JOHNNY

I think maybe I'll help Kai kick your ass.

## SUSPENSEFUL RISE IN MUSIC

В

Johnny, no!

JOHNNY

Johnny, yes! I'm on Kai's side.

KAT

Bam! That's right fool!

В

(turning to Kai)
Bam!? Fool?! Kai?! What ethnicity

do you think you are?

KAI

You won't be making your jokes when I unleash my plague!

В

Plague? What you're gonna destroy the world by giving everybody cavities?

JOHNNY

Not plaque, plaque.

KAI

I'm gonna release an incurable disease for which only I have the cure.

(pause)

In a few days it will sweep over the nation, unless the President hands control of the country over to me.

В

Ambitious. How'd you come up with the plague?

KAI

I left some milk out by the radiator for two months, it just happened to work out.

R

One more question, Kai ...?

JOHNNY

Call him "Sir"!

В

Alright. Kai, Sir. So, say.... (laughs)

Kai, sir, so say... Keyser Soze. Geez, watch a movie. Anyway, if I...

JOHNNY

(cutting him off)

B, we've had enough dialogue, can we get to some action?

Е

Oh yeah, I wasn't thinking. Sorry.

**JOHNNY** 

No problem.

KAI

Get him, Johnny.

B and Johnny square up preparing to fight. The two guys start to growl at one another, each growl becoming louder and louder and more "menacing."

Johnny does a big bear growl. B does a "tarzan-imitation." Johnny does a big lion impression. B imitates an elephant. Johnny starts to act like bull about to charge.

KAI

While you guys are doing this, I'm gonna have a beer.

Kai moves toward fridge.

В

Noooooo!

B runs to the fridge to stop Kai. Johnny sticks out an arm and clotheslines B. Johnny grabs a downed B and headbutts him. B grabs Johnny, B kicks Johnny between the legs and flips Johnny over. B gets up and tries to run after Kai. Johnny grabs B by the hair and pulls him back away from Kai.

В

B (cont'd)

Well, if we're gonna fight like girls!

B hits Johnny in the balls. Johnny groans and B laughs at him. Johnny grabs B and throws B over his shoulders, Johnny goes into a helicopter spin.

F

I think I'm gonna puke!

Johnny stops spinning B and slams B to the ground. B is dazed and dizzy. Johnny climbs on the couch and is about to jump and elbow drop B. Johnny jumps, B rolls out of way. B gets up and stumbles around dizzily and punching at nothing. Johnny jumps up grabbing his elbow in pain.

JOHNNY

Funny bone! Ow! My funny bone!

B

So dizzy! Hold still!

KAI

As fun as this is, you mind if I put on some music?

Kai pulls out a C.D. and puts it in, it's a German opera. B drops to the ground holding his ears.

Ε

Not opera! Jeez, you haven't mixed up enough cultures, now you throw German in the mix!

KAI

It's no Yanni, but hey!

В

You are evil! I must defeat you!

JOHNNY

Or you could join us!

В

That was strange seque way.

JOHNNY

Come on, be a terrorist with me. It's fun.

KAI

Yeah, you get to make societial changes, and you don't have to submit to the 5 day, 40 hour work week.

JOHNNY

Plus you get to play with fire.

В

You're making a lot of sense. But when something makes sense to me it's usually crazy. You're crazy, Johnny!

KAI

What about me?

В

And you are too, Kai... obviously.

KAI

Fine, no more talking.
 (Gives Johnny a golf club)
Get rid of him.

В

(getting a broom from the closet)

You can try.

**JOHNNY** 

Let's do this.

Johnny thrust his club forward and yells, but doesn't move. B does the same, each holding their weapons out in front of them ready to battle.

Both Johnny and B stand with their eyes closed, though, afraid to attack first. Kai looks anxiously at both of them, but when neither moves, Kai picks up a stick of some kind with a sigh and hits both of their weapons.

The guys with their eyes closed think the other guy is hitting them and each yells and flinches with each hit from Kai. Finally they jump apart.

Ε

That was intense.

JOHNNY

Yeah.

Kai shakes his head in disbelief.

R

Ready for more?

JOHNNY

Okay.

B starts to swing his broom up and down not hitting Johnny. Johnny swings his club from side to side, not hitting B. They slowly inch forward.

KAI

This is moving slower than a kiss on Felicity.

JOHNNY

(turning from B)

Hey, good one, boss!

B swings upward and hits Johnny in the balls again. Johnny falls down.

В

Dude, that's two hits to the clingclangs. We should stop before you lose all your bullets.

JOHNNY

(high pitched)

Screw you.

В

You're not gonna be able to screw again if we keep this up.

Johnny dives at B. B puts Johnny into a choke hold.

B (CONT'D)

Seriously, this is getting embarrassing.

B grabs Johnny around the neck and chokes Johnny until he passes out. B drags Johnny over to the floor by the bed.

В

(to Kai)

Now I'll kick your...

KAI

(cutting him off)

You kidding, check out these guns. I'll kill you...

В

Let's do it then.

KAI

Instead of that, I've got something
up my sleeve...

(pulls a little remote
 from his sleeve)
A pocket earthquake.

Kai presses a button on the remote.

There's an earthquake [some crazy earthquake-y noises and everyone stumbles around and knocks things over like the earth's shaking]

During the quake Kai runs out the door and B falls into the seat of the desk in front of the computer.

SHORT MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Johnny suddenly sits up, and the noises stop.

JOHNNY

Okay, time out! Your professor knows there wasn't an earthquake yesterday.

В

Will you shut up and let me write this.

**JOHNNY** 

Whatever... bonehead.

R

I heard that. You're so immature.
 (continuing typing)
"The earth groaned and rocked my
room, causing me to shake down to
my very bones. I yelled out..."

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Quake sounds resume and everyone starts shaking.

B (CONT'D)

This isn't funny like the Charleton Heston movie!

The quake stops.

JOHNNY

(waking up groggily)
What's happening?

You shut up!

B runs over to Johnny and knocks his head against the bed causing Johnny to pass out.

B (CONT'D)

I need something to... Aha!
(Runs over to his desk and pulls out handcuffs)
Gwen's the best.

B puts the handcuffs on Johnny locking Johnny's hands around the bed posts. Suddenly Mare enters.

Р

Mare! This isn't what it looks like. Johnny's a... Johnny's a... Well, he's...

MARE

A terrorist, I know.

В

You do?

MARE

You can only play Hannibal Lector gets Agent Starling so many times before you realize someone's really evil.

В

0h...

MARE

Anyway, it's you I want not Johnny.

В

Huh?

MARE

My life flashed before my eyes in the quake, I realized I want the work-a-day guy who fits into the acceptable world, I don't want a terrorist.

Е

(hitting the wall)
No offense, but I have a...

Gwen enters. B pushes Mare into the closet.

B (CONT'D)

... a girlfriend!

GWEN

B! Are you alright?

В

It's been a funny day.

**GWEN** 

I was so worried about you with the quake.

В

Thanks, I was worried about you too.

Mare comes out of closet. B pushes her back in. Gwen doesn't see any of it.

**GWEN** 

It's pandemonium.

В

Yeah, it really...

Gwen grabs B and pulls him down behind the couch. Mare comes out and sees this, she looks outraged for a moment and then looks as she's about to cry as she sadly goes back into the closet. B jumps back up.

В

Gwen, what're you doing?

**GWEN** 

I thought it was obvious.

В

No.

GWEN

I was trying to take your pants off so you could put...

В

(cutting her off)

I know what you were doing, but we can't.

GWEN

But I was so worried about you.

But now's not the time.

(pause)

I can't believe I just said that. We have to think of others. Can you tell me if there are power lines down outside?

Gwen goes over to the window. B is standing by the closet. Mare jumps out of the closet and into B's arms. B pushes her off him and back into the closet.

F

No! Stay! Stay or I won't love you!

**GWEN** 

What?

В

(after a pause)
I practicing what I would say if I
ever got a puppy.

**GWEN** 

Ok.... Well, there's no power lines down...

(noticing Johnny)
What happened to Johnny?

В

He passed out from the quake.

GWEN

(going over to Johnny and checking him out) He passed put with handcuffs on?

В

He was going into shock, I put those on him so he wouldn't hurt himself.

B pulls out a wooden spoon or something and sticks it in Johnny's mouth.

B (CONT'D)

Just to be safe.

GWEN

Are these my handcuffs?

В

Yes, I'm sorry.

**GWEN** 

No, I was thinking, we could take them off him and maybe...

MARE

(entering from the closet)
That's enough! B, you don't want
her, you want me!

**GWEN** 

Mare? What's going ...?

MARE

(ignoring Gwen)

Come on, B! Just touch my boobs, then you'll see how much better I am.

B goes into a trance-like-ness and starts to reach out to touch Mare's boobs. At the last second Gwen hits B.

GWEN

В!

B

Sorry, boobs're like my Kryptonite,
I can't fight it.
 (turning back to Mare)
Get back in the closet, until I
tell you other wise!

Mare stomps back to the closet throwing a mini-fit.

GWEN

B, what is going on?

В

Okay, let me explain.

KAI

(entering suddenly)
There's no time for that!

Kai grabs Gwen and puts a needle/syringe to her throat.

Ε

Thank god, I don't have to explain that, but hey! Let her go!

KAI

That wouldn't be too bloody smart, you think I'm a sodding idiot?

Now he's British?

GWEN

(to Kai)

Let me go, you skinny loser.

KAI

Shut up, before I stick something in that dirty mouth, baby.

Dude, that's wrong!

KAI

I just meant a hanky.

(pause)

Seriously, I didn't mean it dirty. That's it, I'm killing her.

В

Don't!

KAI

Why not?

Because I want to kill her. I want to join you. Johnny told me how cool it was. I get to act crazy, play with fire and touch lots of boobs.

KAI

Plus with no official allegiance to any country you can act like any nationality you want.

So that explains it.

KAI

Now it's your turn.

(hands B the syringe and Gwen)

Infect her, and join the dark side.

В

Alright.

(B is about to stick Gwen, but then...)

Sike!

B sticks it to himself.

B falls to the floor and starts to twitch and flop around and make funny noises.

Music rises while he does this "End of the World as We Know It" plays.

B jumps up lookin' fine.

В

Just kidding, it doesn't hurt yet.

KAI

Ack, foiled again!

Kai runs out.

В

We've got to follow him.

**GWEN** 

You can't, you're sick.

В

Oh yeah, oh god... I'm gonna die!

B starts to again run around and act crazy as he flips out.

Music rises "End of the World As We Know It"

Gwen tries to run around after him, finally grabs him and slaps him, then kisses him. B stops being crazy, then grabs her and kisses her and tries to pull her behind the couch. Gwen stops him and pulls him up.

**GWEN** 

Now's not the time.

В

I'm dying, now's the time.

GWEN

I'll go after the terrorist and get you the antidote. You stay here and look for the plague he's got hidden.

В

Good plan, and break!

Gwen starts to run out the door and B starts to look around the room. Gwen stops as she's halfway out the door.

**GWEN** 

Wait! B, why did you infect yourself for me?

В

Cuz I'd do anything for you.

**GWEN** 

Aw! On second thought, we can have one quick go.

Gwen grabs B and pulls him behind the couch. B stops her.

R

No, you're right we can't.

**GWEN** 

It'll just take a minute.

В

We have to find... You're right, it will just take a minute.

B grabs Gwen and they fall behind the couch.

Lot's of love-making noises and some clothes thrown and stuff.

Mare comes out of the closet again to se this and throws her hands up in disbelief, but then gets an idea and runs back into the closet. After short bit, Gwen and B pop up again breathing heavily and little dishevelled.

В

With seconds to spare.

**GWEN** 

I gotta get out of here.

В

Can you take him?

**GWEN** 

(pulling a gun from her pocket)

It's part of the RA training.

Gwen exits.

В

I was hoping that was gun in her pocket.

B starts to search around the room. After a second, Mare reenters dressed in just a bathrobe.

MARE

I got tired of waiting.

Mare starts to follow B.

В

This isn't a good time.

MARE

It's a great time.

B

I'm real busy.

MARE

What're you looking for?

В

Something important. I'll know it when I see it.

MARE

Does it look like this?

B is standing behind the couch looking for the plague. Mare stands directly in front of him. She opens her robe to him. B's mouth drops and he gasps unable to speak. B drops unconscious from shock. Johnny wakes up.

JOHNNY

Hey, what're you doing? You're my girl.

MARE

(closing her robe)

Aw, honey...

Mare goes over to Johnny and punches him out.

B gets up holding his head

MARE

Are you okay?

В

Infected with the plague, had a drag-out fight with my best friend and just hit my head, but yeah, I'm alright.

Let's see if we can make you better.

Mare starts to chase B around the room.

В

We can't do this.

MARE

Why not?

В

We're not ready. I can't believe I said that.

MARE

Stop playing around, come here.

В

What about Gwen?

MARE

She can join next time.

В

(starts to protest)

Mare... that is awesome that you said that! But we don't have protection.

MARE

Protection is not in my vocabulary.

Р

I don't believe you said that.

B trips and falls in front of the couch.

B (CONT'D)

Mare, please...

MARE

(straddling him)

Shhhh, I'll have you begging in a second.

В

I need to look for ...

(looking under couch)

The Plague!

B pushes Mare off of him. He reaches under the couch and pulls out the plague.

Congratulations! Let's celebrate, if you know what I mean.

В

We can't.

Gwen reenters with Kai in a headlock.

B (CONT'D)

Or maybe we can. Hey, Gwen, what would you think about a three...

**GWEN** 

(cutting him off)
There's no time.

KAI

You're right, you can't stop me.

В

Wrong, I got your plague right here. The game's up.

GWEN

And I found the antidote on him.

(Gwen pulls out a little
beaker of antidote)

Hurry and take it, B, and we win.

В

There's no hurry, I feel fine.

B suddenly passes out.

**GWEN** 

В!

KAI

(grabbing the antidote from Gwen)

Snap, I'll take this, and I'm outta
here.

**GWEN** 

I don't think so, you're going down!

Kai runs out the door with Gwen chasing after him. Kai screams terrified as he is chased. Mare shakes B and slaps him lightly to try and wake him. Johnny wakes up groaning loudly.

B, wake up, I love you!

Mare kisses B, B remains passed out.

JOHNNY

Mare, I'm right here. Do you have to do that in front of me?

MARE

I'm sorry, Johnny, but I love him.

JOHNNY

But I did this for you. I thought you'd like it if I became a rebel.

MARE

Don't you get it, B's a rebel and he's risky, and yet he still plays by the rules. That's why I love him.

Kai reenters being chased by Gwen. They run around the room yelling at one another.

KAI

Back off! I'll slap you! I'm not kidding, I'm crazy, I'll mess you up!

**GWEN** 

Give me the antidote, before I break you in half!

KAI

Why would I give it to you now? You just said you'd break me in half once I do!

**GWEN** 

Oh right... just give me the antidote.

Kai tries to run away from Gwen and runs over by Johnny.

Johnny sticks out his leg and trips Kai.

Gwen steps over the fallen Kai and puts her gun in his mouth.

JOHNNY

Mare, get the antidote and give it to B.

Gotcha.

**GWEN** 

(pointing her gun at Kai)

Don't move.

Mare gets the antidote and gives it to B. B jumps ups suddenly reenergized.

В

Thanks, now let's put an end to this guy.

B picks up the bottle of plague and walks over to Kai. B makes Kai drink the entire bottle. After Kai does so, he gets up and goes crazy from a few seconds then drops to the floor.

**GWEN** 

That was funny.

В

Yeah, Kai was actually a pretty funny guy.

MARE

And now he's dead.

JOHNNY

Hey, can I be let loose now?

В

Hmmmm.

**GWEN** 

He did trip Kai, so I could get the antidote.

MARE

He redeemed himself in my eyes.

В

He did try to kill me, but what the hell, let him loose.

Mare uncuffs him.

MARE

Do you mind if we borrow these?

**GWEN** 

Yes.

What am I a saint? I already forgave him, now you want me to give you two handcuffs. Not a chance. But does that mean you two are back together?

MARE

I'll give him another chance.

**GWEN** 

(meaning Kai)

What should we do about him?

В

(to Johnny)

Give me a hand.

Johnny and B pick Kai up and toss him out the window.

B (CONT'D)

He's bio-degradable.

MARE

Well, it looks like everything worked out.

JOHNNY

Sure did.

В

And more importantly we all learned a valuable lesson. I learned that while an anti-conformist lifestyle might seem enticing, ultimately working for the betterment of our friends and our society in a constructive way is much more rewarding.

JOHNNY

I just learned that terrorism is bad.

Е

And I also confirmed once and for all that I can take Johnny anytime, anyplace.

MARE

Well, I'm gonna get out of here.

**JOHNNY** 

I'm gonna stay and study so I can be an edgy yet intelligent citizen.

MARE

Just don't get too geeky.

Mare exits.

**GWEN** 

I'm gonna go too. (To B)

You wanna come?

В

How many ways could I answer that question? But I will be by shortly, but first I need to write down this crazy day.

**GWEN** 

Okay.

(kisses B)
Don't take too long... You never
do.

Gwen exits.

Johnny sits on the floor next to the bed and begins to study. B goes over to the computer and sits and begins typing.

SHORT MUSICAL INTERLUDE

В

(narrating his writing) "And all my friends and I learned very valuable lessons about ourselves, each other, and the complex world we live in. And as for Tiny Tim, AKA Kai the terrorist, who did not die, because his plague turned out to be bogus, myself and my gang taught him to become a productive member of the world, and we learned from him to be usurp the best parts of all cultures, just like Columbus did with the Indians. And we all lived happily ever after. The end."

J

That's it? That's your paper?

Yup.

JOHNNY

You're really going to turn that in?

В

Oh yeah. You wanna go with me. I was just going to drop it off, then sneak out of class. We can pick up some beer and start drinking.

JOHNNY

(shrugs)

Why not? Let's live dangerously.

They exit.

Lights down.