

THE LAMPSHADE
The College Years
by
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Play # 7 : My Boyfriend's Back... Is Huge!

The Lampshade

Episode 7 : My Boyfriend's Back... Is Huge

INT. JOHNNY & B'S DORM ROOM - DAY

The dorm room is relatively clean. After a moment the guys enter.

JOHNNY
We enter through the door.

B
The door?

JOHNNY
Should we go back out?

B
Out the door?

JOHNNY
Is there anything else?

B
Out the window.

JOHNNY
That's a big step.

B
We could hang ourselves.

JOHNNY
We could.

B
Should we do it here, or outside?

JOHNNY
Do what?

B
Hang ourselves.

Gwen enters, she watches them for a moment.

JOHNNY
Let's just wait.

B
Wait for what?

JOHNNY
Wait for who.

B
What?

JOHNNY
No, who.

B
Who, what?

JOHNNY
We wait for who, not for what?

B
Who do we wait for?

JOHNNY
Godot.

B
Pesky Godot.

GWEN
Okay, what the hell?

JOHNNY
We were playing existentialist.

GWEN
Really?

B
Like from "Waiting for Godot."

GWEN
Brilliant... English teachers
shouldn't let you read plays you
won't understand.

JOHNNY
Reading is not understanding.

B
Books can give you paper cuts.

JOHNNY
Cuts can go to the soul.

B
Godot cut me once.

GWEN
Okay, you're stopping now.

JOHNNY
We're just having fun.

GWEN
And you're done.

B
Right, why should we have any fun?
I'm outta here, see you later,
Johnny.

B exits.

GWEN
He's still angry about my breaking
up with him.

JOHNNY
What tipped you off?

GWEN
You're getting a good handle on
witty sarcasm.

JOHNNY
Did you want something?

GWEN
Tell B, I'm s...

JOHNNY
(cutting her off)
Did you want something. Or do you
just walk into everyone's rooms
without knocking to see how people
will react.

GWEN
I need your help.

JOHNNY
(suspiciously)
Okay?

GWEN
I need you to act like my
boyfriend.

JOHNNY
What?!

GWEN

Hear me out.

JOHNNY

I have to, or I'll miss the punchline.

GWEN

My ex is coming to town, I told him I was dating someone new here, because I was dating B then, but now I'm not dating B, but I never told my ex that, because then he'd start hitting on me again, and he's kind of a geek and I don't want to get back with him.

JOHNNY

So you want me to pose as your boyfriend, to continue your ruse to keep your ex off your back?

GWEN

Yes.

JOHNNY

No.

GWEN

Johnny...

JOHNNY

No. Me, you dating, even fake dating - exactly what Marilea, my girlfriend, would not like.

GWEN

Marilea will never know.

JOHNNY

You're right cuz it won't happen. Why can't you get someone else?

GWEN

Because I told him this specific room number is where my boyfriend lives. Johnny, I'm asking you as a friend for your help.

JOHNNY

(pause)

Mare can't know.

GWEN

She won't.

JOHNNY

Okay, but you owe me.

GWEN

Oh, you mean after I looked the other way when you guys constantly have beer and pot in here?

JOHNNY

Okay, we owe you one less then.

GWEN

Deal. I'll go get him.

Gwen goes to leave.

JOHNNY

Gwen! You don't have to apologize to B, he... we were all unfair to you.

GWEN

Thanks. I'll go get him.

Gwen leaves.

JOHNNY

What am I getting myself into? If Mare finds out...

Mare enters bouncing a basketball.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

... Mare!

MARE

Ready to play?

JOHNNY

We were going to play basketball!

MARE

Yeah. Did you forget?

JOHNNY

No. I was just about to warm up.

MARE

Oh, good.

Mare continues dribbling - she's really bad.

JOHNNY

Pass it here.

(Mare passes the ball)

Here catch it.

(Johnny tosses it out the window)

Oops. Sorry.

MARE

It's okay, I'll go get it.

Mare starts for the door.

JOHNNY

Why don't you go out the window after it?

MARE

The window?

JOHNNY

Yeah, you'll find it faster.

MARE

Okay?

Reluctantly she starts to climb out the window. The door starts to open and Johnny pushes Mare out the window. Gwen enters with Cassidy, who is huge.

JOHNNY

(out to Mare)

Sorry.

GWEN

Who you talkin' to?

JOHNNY

Nobody...

(turns to see the enormous Cassidy)

Oh my god.

CASSIDY

Hi, I'm Cassidy. It's a real pleasure to meet you, Gwen's told me wonderful things.

JOHNNY

She's told me... nothing about you.

(Gwen steps on his foot)

Ow, I didn't want to start out on the wrong foot.

GWEN

Wrong foot.

Gwen steps on Johnny's other foot. Johnny falls down.

CASSIDY

In honor of this occasion, I wrote
a poem, for Gwen's new friend.

Cassidy pulls out a piece of paper and recites, and
interpretatively dances it also:

CASSIDY (CONT'D)

Though my wonderful Gwen hath gone
away,
To find her life anew away at
school
I think about her each and every
day
For if I did not then I'd be a
fool.

JOHNNY

Wow, that was great.

CASSIDY

There are still two more quatrains
and a rhyming couplet.

JOHNNY

Of course... there'd have to be.
(Gwen elbows Johnny)
Ow!

GWEN

Sorry, go on!

As Cassidy continues, Johnny fights laughing, Gwen elbows
Johnny and also she tries to not laugh.

CASSIDY

And yet my heart rejoices in
reliefs
My soul is lifted from its many
fears
And joy falls upon me like all the
leaves
That die and fall when autumn time
appears
Because my lady hath found splendid
friends
To laugh, to cry, to share her
memory

(MORE)

CASSIDY (cont'd)
 Of both the good and of the evil
 ends
 While I cannot by her side always
 be.
 For this I thank you now and
 evermore
 Making friends despite not meeting
 before.

JOHNNY
 Is that it?

Cassidy nods while fighting tears.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
 That took courage.

CASSIDY
 The pleasure's all mine.

The basketball is tossed back in the window. Mare appears at the window sill, trying to climb in.

Johnny tosses the ball to her. She takes her hands off the window to catch it and she falls outside again. Cassidy and Gwen look at Johnny confused.

JOHNNY
 It's a game we play.

GWEN
 (her cell phone rings)
 Just a second.
 (Talking into phone)
 Hello? Yeah... I'm kind of busy...
 Couldn't you call another... They're
 all out.. Okay, I'll be there in a
 second. Bye.
 (putting away phone)
 A resident needs me, I'll be back
 in a minute.

CASSIDY
 I'll stay here if you don't mind?
 Get to know Johnny.

Johnny makes a big "no!" behind Cassidy's back.

GWEN
 Okay, I'll be right back.

Gwen leaves.

JOHNNY
That was bad timing.

CASSIDY
Not really. I told him to call, so
we could have some man-to-man time.

Cassidy grabs Johnny and puts him in a headlock.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)
Let's talk about you and my woman?

JOHNNY
This isn't really talking, it's
more like body language.

CASSIDY
We'll communicate.

Cassidy tightens his hold. Johnny gasps and falls to his
knees.

B enters smoking a cigar. Cassidy lets go of Johnny. Johnny
jumps up.

B
Who's this guy?

JOHNNY
Gwen's ex, Cassidy.

B
Really? We've got something in
common. She burned you too, huh?

CASSIDY
Kind of.

B
She dumped me for no reason too.
She's so touchy you know?

CASSIDY
I guess.

B
And let's face it, he's really
bossy, and kinda selfish..

Cassidy starts to get visibly pissed. Johnny tries to signal
B to stop talking.

B (CONT'D)

... But she's great in the sack. She wore me out a number of times and that's not easy, but she does have that thing she does, I don't know how to explain, you must know which...

While B talks, he turns his back to Cassidy. Cassidy has raised his arms and is about to hit B. Johnny covers his eyes.

Suddenly the basketball gets thrown back in and hits Cassidy.

B

That was odd.

CASSIDY

Yeah.

Cassidy takes the ball and tosses it back out the window. Mare "oofs" from outside.

JOHNNY

I'm gonna go check on her.

Johnny bolts out the door.

B

(looking over Cassidy)

Well...

CASSIDY

Well...

B and Cassidy stand awkwardly shifting for a few moments.

The lights go out and a strobe light turns on - Music rises [Joplin's "The Entertainer"] - The desired effect is one of an old nickelodeon, as B and Cassidy act out a slapstick piece:

B shifts nervously and puts his cigar behind his back. Cassidy also shifts and bends forward, when he bends forward he hits the cigar and jumps up as he is burned. Cassidy brushes ashes off his bum.

B grabs a cup of water, and is going to throw it on Cassidy's butt. Cassidy turns and B throws water in Cassidy's face. B goes over to closet, and turns back to Cassidy.

Cassidy winds up to punch B, B ducks and reaches into closet and Cassidy misses. B comes out with a towel and tries to dry off Cassidy. Cassidy takes towel and throws it to the ground.

B bends over to get towel and ducks another swing from Cassidy. Cassidy raises arms to rabbit punch downward on B.

Gwen enters. Cassidy fakes a stretch, Gwen shrugs at them, B waves uncomfortably at Gwen. The three form a line, with B in between Gwen and Cassidy. B gives Gwen a gentle punch on the shoulder. B gives the same punch to Cassidy. Cassidy punches B back knocking B to the couch.

Gwen sits on couch next to B and caresses him. Cassidy shrugs. Gwen gets up and gestures angrily at Cassidy. B sticks out tongue at Cassidy behind Gwen's back. Gwen turns and B fakes a sad look. Gwen turns back to Cassidy, B sticks out tongue again. Repeat several times.

Gwen goes to fridge to get ice. When Gwen's back is turned Cassidy grabs B and chokes him. Gwen turns and Cassidy pets B's head. Gwen turns around. B steps on Cassidy's foot, then hurries behind couch to meet Gwen. Cassidy hops up and down in pain.

Gwen hands him the ice. B picks up a drink from the desk and puts ice in the drink. Gwen points at Cassidy questioningly. B shrugs and takes Gwen's hand and kisses it. B offers Gwen his arm and she takes it. B walks her around the couch, and when her back is turned, B makes faces at Cassidy.

Gwen suddenly pulls out her phone and nods as she listens to it, she tries to talk but keeps getting stopped. Gwen puts her phone away and throws hands up exasperatedly and exits, B looks terrified as Cassidy grabs B by the shirt and winds up for a punch.

The strobe light and music stops - Lights come up -

Basketball gets thrown back in.

B
Good timing.

MARE
(climbing in window)
Grab that ball.

B
Okay.

B pulls away from Cassidy and grabs the b-ball. Mare climbs in window.

MARE
Thanks, B.
(looking over Cassidy)
Who's this?

B
Gwen's ex.

B goes over to the window.

CASSIDY
Cassidy, pleased to meet you.

MARE
Hi, I'm Mare. You're butch,
Cassidy.

B
Do you have a Sundance, kid?

CASSIDY
Huh?

B
Is you're car a Sundance? Cuz it's
getting ticketed.

CASSIDY
(looking out window)
Crap! I'll be back!

B
Gotta love the deus ex machina.

MARE
What?

B
Nevermind.

B starts ducking into the closet grabbing things.

MARE
Where's, Johnny?

B
He went to look for you.

MARE
Alright, I'll go find him.

Mare exits.

B
When Cassidy comes back, I'll show
him. That guys is sooo going down.

B rushes over to a cabinet and pulls a shirt from it.

Johnny reenters.

JOHNNY
Have you seen Marilea?

B
(going into closet)
She went to look for you.

JOHNNY
I gotta go find her.

Johnny opens the door to find Cassidy standing there. Cassidy immediately begins chasing Johnny. Johnny jumps on the couch and runs across it. Cassidy follows.

CASSIDY
Come here. I want to talk to you about Gwen. This is gonna make my day better.

JOHNNY
Stay away from me, dude. You can have her.

CASSIDY
Oh, I'm gonna have her anyway.

B bursts out of the closet dressed in camo and carrying a water gun and water balloons. B yells and charges at Cassidy as he sprays Cassidy with water.

Cassidy runs away out the door. B chases after him and pushes Johnny out of the way causing Johnny to fall over the couch.

JOHNNY
I'm never helping Gwen again.

B runs back in the room sans water gun. Cassidy follows squirting the water at B and Cassidy is now yelling and charging. B runs at the window and dives out.

Cassidy looks out the window after B. Suddenly Johnny jumps on Cassidy's back and puts Cassidy in a choke hold.

JOHNNY
You're going down punk! You're not gonna terrorize me, or Gwen anymore!

B climbs back in the window carrying a tree branch. B runs over and starts smacking Cassidy with the branch. Finally, Cassidy falls to the floor and passes out.

B
That's right, fool!

JOHNNY
The bigger they are...

B
(cutting him off)
The harder they fall. Nice usage of
cliché. Now what?

JOHNNY
Let's get him out of here.

Johnny and B try to lift Cassidy several times, and each time they can't move him.

JOHNNY
He's too heavy.

B
Yeah, I think I feel a hernia
coming on.

JOHNNY
Well we have to at least keep him
contained?

B
Contained? What are we Navy SEALs?

JOHNNY
Shut up, and help me tie him up.

Johnny goes over to the desk and pulls out a roll of duct tape. Johnny tosses duct tape to B. B tosses it back. They toss it back and forth over next few lines.

B
I'm not tying him up.

JOHNNY
Don't be a baby!

B
Don't be a baby? What are we in
fifth grade? Whoever ties him up,
he's going to be the most pissed
at.

JOHNNY
He's passed out, he won't know.

B
 Alright.

B starts to wrap up Cassidy's feet and hands with duct tape.
 Johnny searches for something.

B (CONT'D)
 What are you looking for?

JOHNNY
 Found it!

Johnny pulls a handkerchief out of closet and ties it around
 Cassidy's mouth.

B
 Okay, now what?

JOHNNY
 That's a very good question.

Mare reenters. Johnny raises his hands up and waves them
 around faking huge surprise and relief at seeing her.

B throws a blanket over Cassidy. Johnny goes over to Mare and
 gives her a hug.

JOHNNY
 Mare! I was worried. I couldn't
 find you.

MARE
 I've been around, where were you?

JOHNNY
 It doesn't matter, now that we've
 found each other.

MARE
 (seeing Cassidy covered)
 What's that?

JOHNNY
 A duffel bag.

MARE
 Why's it covered in a sheet?

JOHNNY
 It was such an eye-sore.

B
 (Sitting on Cassidy)
 Yeah.

MARE
Why not put it away?

B
Good idea.

JOHNNY
My Marilea's always thinking.

Johnny pulls the blanket off Cassidy and flashes the sheet in front of her.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
She's so smart.

Johnny tosses the sheet over Mare's head and then hugs Mare tightly.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
I love this girl.

B quickly rolls Cassidy over to the bed and pushes Cassidy underneath the bed. Johnny takes the sheet off of Mare.

MARE
Okay, that was strange.

B
Doesn't it smell good, though? And
I just washed it... six days ago.

MARE
Are you alright?

There's a crash and some noise under the bed. Mare looks suspiciously. Johnny and B laugh uncomfortably.

MARE
What was that?

B
What do you think it was... the
boogey man or something?

B kicks under the bed.

B (CONT'D)
It's nothing.

There's more noise under bed, B kicks again, this time B starts to get pulled under.

JOHNNY

Well, Mare let's go play basketball now.

Johnny starts to pull Mare out of the room.

MARE

Wait, what's up with...?

JOHNNY

He's fine, we'll leave him to it.

Johnny and Mare exit.

B

Wait, guys, don't leave me.

(to Cassidy under bed)

Let me go!

(B kicks under the bed
real hard again)

Eww.

B runs over to the door and yells out.

B (CONT'D)

Johnny, Mare come back here! You can not leave me alone with Gwen's ex, passed out and tied up under my bed.

MARE

(reentering)

That guy Cassidy's under your bed?

JOHNNY

(to B)

Nice going, jerk.

B

I don't want to be left alone with him.

MARE

Why'd you guys do this?

JOHNNY

He was trying to jump us.

MARE

Why's he after you?

JOHNNY

Uhh...

B
He hates me cuz I'm Gwen's ex.

MARE
What's he want with you, Johnny?

B
Yeah, what does he want with you?

JOHNNY
(pause)
It's not important. Mare, will you help us?

MARE
Always have.

B
Great... now all we need is a plan.

JOHNNY
B, it's time to answer an age-old question. Mare, could you lock the door then pull Cassidy out?

B
Yes!

Johnny and B both run over to the closet. Mare goes and locks the door then pulls Cassidy out from under the bed with great difficulty.

MARE
What question? Chicken or the egg? Coke or pepsi? Is a zebra white with black stripes, or black with white stripes?

JOHNNY
No!

Johnny and B emerge in costume.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Who's better? Batman or Spiderman?

Johnny and B help pull Cassidy over to the couch. They sit Cassidy on the couch. Johnny pulls hankerchief from Cassidy's mouth. B throws water in Cassidy's face.

CASSIDY
(waking up)
What's goin...? What are you guys supposed to be?

B
I'm Batman.

JOHNNY
You wanna know my name... I'm
Spiderman.

CASSIDY
(to Mare)
What about you?

MARE
I'm Mare, we met a little bit ago.

CASSIDY
Oh, right.

B
Be quiet, scum.

CASSIDY
What a bunch of tools.

B
Don't insult my Bat- Belt.

CASSIDY
I mean, you two. You're couple of
tools.

JOHNNY
You better not make fun of us,
you'll need us to get out of this.

B
Forget it, let's beat the hell out
of him.

JOHNNY
No, Batman, relax.
(to Cassidy)
You cooperate or I can't hold him
back.

CASSIDY
Are you kidding?

MARE
I was wondering the same thing?

JOHNNY
Mare, could you just be quiet for a
while?

Mare sits against wall quietly.

CASSIDY

You guys are gonna good cop// bad
cop me?

B

We're not cops, we're above the
law. So pay attention.

JOHNNY

Dude, Batman and Spiderman aren't
above the law. They work with the
police.

B

Can we talk about this later?

JOHNNY

Just don't mess up the facts.

B

I think I know my superheroes
better than you.

JOHNNY

The hell you do.

B

I do...

JOHNNY

Can we just interrogate this guy
now?

CASSIDY

What are you guys, trying...?

B

I'll tell you when to talk!

JOHNNY

Batman wouldn't talk like that.

B

I think he would.

CASSIDY

You guys are ridiculous.

JOHNNY & B

Shut up!

CASSIDY

It's not going to be hard for me to show Gwen what a couple of wastes you guys are, then she'll be all mine to make my sex monkey.

B

Aha! I knew you were up to something.

(to Johnny)

Nice work partner.

JOHNNY

It was easier than I thought it'd be.

MARE

So this had nothing to do with who was better? Batman or Superman?

CASSIDY

You did all that to get me to... Doesn't matter, Gwen will believe me.

There's a knock at the door.

GWEN

(from outside)

You guys there?!

B

Let's find out who she believes.

JOHNNY

(yelling to Gwen)

Just a second.

Johnny, B, and Mare grab Cassidy, replace his gag, and push him into the closet.

JOHNNY

Keep an eye on him.

B

He'll kill me.

JOHNNY

You have to.

B

Fine, but you owe me.

B reluctantly goes into closet.

JOHNNY
 (opening the door)
 Hey, Gwen.

GWEN
 (entering)
 Have you seen...? What are you
 wearing?

JOHNNY
 Me and Mare were having fantasy
 time.

MARE
 Yeah, I just find him so sexy in
 his kiddy pajamas.

GWEN
 Okay... well... Have you seen Cassidy?

MARE
 No.

JOHNNY
 Nuh-uh.

GWEN
 I'm gonna look for him, I'll leave
 you two to it.

Gwen leaves. B comes out of the closet, but is immediately
 pulled back in.

JOHNNY
 I'll help him.

Johnny runs into the closet.

GWEN
 (returning, leaving door
 open & walking in front
 of couch)
 I thought I heard a crash.

MARE
 No you didn't.
 (there's another crash in
 the closet)
 Yes, you did. It's Johnny, he
 likes to act like he's fighting
 evil to get worked up.

JOHNNY
 (from closet)
 Ow! That's not fair! Ow!

MARE
 He gets really into it.

Johnny gets thrown out of the closet and lands at Gwen's feet.

GWEN
 You okay? And I know that's a complex question so just try to answer.

JOHNNY
 I'm fine...

B crawls out of the closet behind the couch, Cassidy follows also crawling.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
 ... but you might not be fine!
 Look out into the evil night!

Johnny pulls Gwen over to the window and points out into the night. B crawls out the door with Cassidy right behind him.

GWEN
 You've got some issues.
 (to Mare)
 You put up with this?

MARE
 Sometimes it's charming and cute...
 this isn't one of those times.

GWEN
 I'll leave you two alone. Johnny,
 some advice, lose the pajamas and
 get to it.

Gwen is about to leave. B runs in the door and slams it behind him and braces himself against it.

Gwen looks at B dressed like Batman.

GWEN
 It's fantasy day all around, huh?

B
 Well, you see, I'm dressed like
 this because... I got nothing.
 (MORE)

B (cont'd)

Okay, the truth is Cassidy has been terrorizing me and Johnny, because he wants to get us out of the way so he can make you his dirty sex bunny. He's after me right now.

GWEN

You expect me to believe...

B is thrown away from the door as it is forced open by Cassidy who quickly hops into the room. Gwen immediately starts to untie Cassidy.

GWEN

What happened?

CASSIDY

(crying)

They attacked me, they said I was a geek because I write poetry, they told me I didn't deserve a good friend like you, they threatened to do worse than this if I ever came back. It was horrible.

JOHNNY

He's lying.

CASSIDY

Why do you guys hate me?

JOHNNY

He was attacking us.

CASSIDY

Right, then I tied myself up.

JOHNNY

Okay, we did tie him up, but it was to protect ourselves.

CASSIDY

Gwen, you know I'd never hurt anyone.

GWEN

Mare, do you know what happened?

MARE

I didn't see Cassidy do anything, I took the guys word for it.

CASSIDY

(crying)

Gwen, I've known you for years, you trust me, right?

GWEN

Stop crying, of course I trust you.
(to Johnny and B)
I can't believe you'd do this.

B

This will settle things.
(pulls out a tape recorder)
Listen to this.

RECORDED CASSIDY :

"It's not going to be hard for me to show Gwen what a couple of wastes you guys are, then she'll be all mine to make my sex monkey."

CASSIDY

They forced me to say that.

GWEN

Really?

CASSIDY

I would never say that... I write poems... listen to this:
(pulls out a piece of paper)
Though my emotions have torn myself assunder,
Causing this most egregious blunder,
It causes me to stop and wonder...

GWEN

(cutting him off)

Stop, you sound so gay. The funny thing, is if you'd been yourself, I'd probably have been your sex slave. I mean you're big and hot, but this poetry is stuff is just weird. Get out of here.

CASSIDY

Gwen, give me a chance to...

GWEN

Get out!

CASSIDY

Yes, ma'am.

Cassidy turns to leave.

GWEN

But Cassidy... I might call on you
one day for a booty call.

CASSIDY

Really?

GWEN

Maybe, now go home.

Cassidy exits.

GWEN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I doubted you guys.

JOHNNY

If I didn't live here, I wouldn't
believe half the stuff that goes on
in this dorm room.

(Mare steps on his foot)

Ow! I just meant the problems we
get into, not all the sex stuff.

(Mare steps on his foot
again)

Ow!

MARE

Johnny's going to stop talking now.

JOHNNY

Yeah.

(to Mare)

You still want to go play
basketball?

MARE

Only, if you stay dressed like
this.

JOHNNY

(shrugs)

Sure. Let's go.

Mare and Johnny exit.

B

I guess everything worked out for
you.

GWEN

Yeah, well I'll get going.

B

See ya.

GWEN

Bye.

(Gwen goes to leave, then stops)

B, I'm sorry that things worked out how...

B

(cutting her off)

Shhh. I was in the wrong, not you. You were...are my RA and I tried to throw a party, but more importantly you were my girlfriend and I didn't even invite you. I'm sorry.

GWEN

Forgiven. And thank you for... doing all this today.

B

What're friends for?

GWEN

Right... friends. You want to go get food or something?

B

Can I go dressed like this?

GWEN

I wouldn't have it any other way.

B offers his arm. Gwen takes it and they exit.

Lights down.