

THE LAMPSHADE
The College Years
by
Ben Gillman

Play # 8 : Back to the Future Rip-off

The Lampshade

Episode 8 : Back to the Future Rip-off"

INT. JOHNNY & B'S DORMROOM - DAY

The door room is looking pretty standard, everything in place, just a little messy, maybe a few beer cans strewn about, but not a huge mess.

Mare enters carrying a small flat wrapped package.

MARE

Johnny, Happy Anni...! Johnny?! You here?

(briefly searches around the room)

Hmmm. Johnny? I figured he'd be here. I'll just wait.

(she sits - jumps up suddenly)

Wait, I don't want to be the psycho girlfriend who's chilling in the room even when he's not here... What am I saying he won't think that?

(she sits - jumps up suddenly)

But I don't want him to think I don't have anything else to do... Johnny wouldn't... but maybe he would... No... I don't know what I'm saying, I should just go.

She grabs her package and is about to leave.

The door opens and Johnny and Gwen begin to enter.

Mare confused drops to the floor, hidden by the side of the couch.

Both Johnny and Gwen are sweaty, Gwen is severely out of breath, Johnny is also breathing just a little heavy.

GWEN

(barely able to talk for lack of breath)

How are you not out of breath after that work out?

JOHNNY

Me and B play Super Handball a lot.

GWEN

Well, you put me through the
wringer.

JOHNNY

That good, huh?

GWEN

Let's just say I'll have the good
soreness tomorrow.

Johnny takes a squeeze bottle from fridge, he drops it and it
rolls behind the door, he fumbles and picks it up.

GWEN (CONT'D)

Smooth.

JOHNNY

Shut up.

Johnny takes a drink, offers it to Gwen she shakes her head.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

You look like you could use a
stretch.

GWEN

God yes. Could you help me?

Mare looks more and more uncomfortable and confused but stays
hidden.

Gwen lays on the floor and puts her leg up. Johnny lays on
top of her pushing her leg back, stretching her leg muscles.

GWEN (CONT'D)

Oh, that's good.

JOHNNY

You want me to go a little further?

GWEN

Yeah, push it further.

Mare pops her head up and sees this, let's out a yelp, then
drops looking flushed.

Johnny stops the stretch and let's Gwen up.

GWEN (CONT'D)

I can always count on you.

JOHNNY

I deliver where it counts.

GWEN
You sure do.

JOHNNY
Well, I guess we could both use a shower.

GWEN
I can't, all my towels are dirty.

JOHNNY
I guess, you can share with me.

GWEN
We did just get all sweaty together, I guess we could get all clean together too.

Johnny walks over to grab a towel.

Mare crawls quickly to the other side of the couch to avoid being seen.

Gwen follows Johnny a little to stay center in front of couch.

GWEN (CONT'D)
(painfully)
Ohhh!

JOHNNY
What is it?

GWEN
My boobs.

JOHNNY
What?

GWEN
They're sore, from all that bouncing. You wanna massage them?

JOHNNY
Uhhh...

MARE
(jumping up)
Okay, that's it.

JOHNNY
Mare!

Mare wedgies Johnny from behind, then leap frogs over him.

MARE
You're going down!

Mare jumps onto Gwen.

GWEN
Mare, I was only joking.

MARE
I'm only joking too.

JOHNNY
Mare...

Johnny tries to pull Mare off, but she hits him with her package, he stumbles back.

GWEN
Get off me... Oopps!

Gwen falls down under the weight. Mare and Gwen start to roll and wrestle on the ground.

Johnny grabs his squeeze bottle and starts to spray the girls.

JOHNNY
You gotta cool down.

MARE
(grabs bottle)
You cool down.

Mare sprays water in Johnny's face.

JOHNNY
It's in my eyes.

Johnny stumbles around blindly and falls out window.

When Mare is turned Gwen grabs a pillow from couch and starts to hit Mare with the pillow. Gwen chases Mare with the pillow.

GWEN
Come on, don't go soft on me now.

MARE
Get away from me.

Mare runs out door with Gwen following.

Johnny climbs in window rubbing his eyes.

Gwen comes running back in followed by Mare who is now holding a fire extinguisher [Mare sprays it if possible, if not she swings it wildly]. Gwen runs around couch with Mare following, they pass Johnny.

JOHNNY
Everybody calm..!

Mare sprays or hits Johnny with fire extinguisher. He falls out window again.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
My eyes!

MARE
(to Gwen)
Now it's your turn.

GWEN
Mare, can we talk about..

MARE
This will be more fun.

Mare starts to run at Gwen. Mare slips on puddle of water from when Johnny sprayed them.

Gwen grabs a blanket and throws it over Mare. Mare struggles in the blanket. Gwen rushes over to the bed and pulls off a pillowcase.

GWEN
You need a nap.

MARE
(throwing off the blanket)
Get this off of me.

GWEN
(Pulling pillowcase over
Gwen's head)
Go to sleep.

Mare gets up and stumbles around blindly.

Gwen pokes and pushes at Mare tauntingly, and laughs and dances in triumph. Mare flails her legs, kicking wildly.

Johnny climbs back in the window.

GWEN (CONT'D)
Whatcha gonna do now, huh? Can't
get me.

MARE
You're going down. Get this off
me.

JOHNNY
(pulling case off Mare)
Let's all...

Mare wildly kicks Johnny in the groin. Johnny falls down

MARE
Oohh, sorry, honey... I mean, no, you
deserve this.

Gwen grabs Mare from behind. Mare struggles against her.

MARE (CONT'D)
Ow, ow, ow! My boobs are sore too,
stop squeezing them!

GWEN
I'm not falling for that.

MARE
Fine.

Mare throws herself backward pushing Gwen back to the wall
behind the door. Gwen let's go of Mare. Mare opens the door
and smashing Gwen between the door and wall.

MARE (CONT'D)
Now someone's boobs will definitely
be sore tomorrow.

JOHNNY
Mare...

Johnny grabs Mare from behind and tries to spin her around.
Mare spins swinging her fist.

Johnny ducks the swing, then stands up and Mare jabs Johnny
to the face three times. Johnny stumbles backwards to the
center of the room.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
(dazed and confused)
There is no spoon.

GWEN
(getting up)
Okay that hurt. You'll pay.

Gwen starts to run toward Mare. Johnny gets up and holds the
two girls apart as they reach and claw at one another.

JOHNNY
Can we all chill?

GWEN
I'll chill, once I put her on ice.

MARE
Come and try it.

JOHNNY
We're not going to do that.

Johnny throws Gwen over his shoulder and tries to walk away. Mare fights so much, she stumbles and falls, she grabs Johnny's legs.

Johnny walks with Gwen over his shoulder and Mare dragging behind him.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
What is going on here?

GWEN
I'm gonna kill her.

MARE
You can try.

JOHNNY
Okay, you two stop!
(the girls continue to
struggle)
Stop! I need you to stop! Stop,
or my mom will shoot!

The girls finally stop.

GWEN
That was a real bad movie
reference.

MARE
Yeah, it was terrible.

JOHNNY
Sorry, I didn't want it to come to
that. You two need to relax.
(puts down Gwen and helps
up Mare)
Now, what's going on?

MARE
Don't play stupid, I caught you
two.

GWEN
Caught us?

MARE
Post hook-up.

JOHNNY
What? Mare, we didn't...

MARE
Oh please, I'm not stupid, I saw
you too getting all sweaty and
breathing heavy. You two were
having...

JOHNNY
(cutting her off)
We were jogging.

MARE
...having jogging. But the bouncing
boobs... it all makes sense.

GWEN
Yeah, and if you would have...

JOHNNY
Gwen, could I see you later?

GWEN
Yeah, sure. See you.

Gwen leaves.

MARE
Johnny...

JOHNNY
Mare, I'm not trying to be jerky
boyfriend here, but I can't believe
this.

MARE
Sorry, but it's our three month
anniversary, and I saw you all
flirty and...

JOHNNY
I wasn't flirty.

MARE
You were.

JOHNNY

Okay, maybe Gwen was flirting with me, but she flirts with everyone.

MARE

You were returning it.

JOHNNY

Maybe it seemed that way, but that doesn't explain you knocking me out the window.. twice!

MARE

And how many times have you knocked me out the window?

JOHNNY

But never maliciously. You attacked me.

MARE

You were on the floor together, what do you expect me to think?

JOHNNY

I expect you to think whatever you want, I can't help that. But I also expect you to ask me, and... y'know whatever. You don't trust me, fine.

Johnny goes to his desk, pulls out a present and tosses it to Mare.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

See you later.

Johnny exits.

Mare starts to open the present.

MARE

I don't believe him.

Mare opens present and pulls out a small figurine of a horse.

MARE (CONT'D)

Oh.

(Mare takes out a small card and reads aloud)

"I saw this horse and couldn't help but think of my Mare. I love you, thanks for an amazing three months. Johnny. P.S.

(MORE)

MARE (CONT'D)

I realize a mare is a male horse,
and I'm comfortable with the
homosexual allusion."

(Mare slumps to the couch)
I think I screwed up.

B

(entering from the closet)
Screwed up what?

MARE

(jumping in surprise)
B! How long have you been there?

B

A while, I was working on some
experiments. Screwed what up?

MARE

I flipped out on Johnny.

B

Why?

MARE

I saw him and Gwen together and I
made bad assumptions.

B

It happens, we all get stupidly
jealous sometimes.

MARE

You don't understand I was
terrible.

B

And now it's over.

MARE

But I was horrible, I want nothing
more than to go back and change it.

B

You want nothing more?

MARE

Nothing.

B

Really?

MARE

Really.

B
You're sure?

MARE
You're not cruising past this, are you getting to something?

B
I've got a way. A time machine.

MARE
A time machine? I think someone needs a nap.

B
I'm trying to help and you make jokes.

MARE
You made a time machine.

B
Yeah, a couple weeks ago. I was still with Gwen, and she would wear out too quickly sometimes, so I made the time machine so that I could go back and time and we could..

MARE
Please don't finish that sentence. Alright, let me see it.

B
(goes into closet comes out and hands Mare a clock)
Here.

MARE
This is it?

B
Look, my laboratory is a closet, which is basically the basement of a bug-invested old building that's at the top of the campus renovation list, I'm doing the best I can with limited resources.

MARE
Sorry, how's it work?

B

Just reset the time to the time you want to go to, easy as that.

MARE

But then I'll have to be careful to avoid my other self.

B

No, this machine works on the principle that no thing can occupy two spaces at the same time. So you simply take the place of yourself earlier, you get another chance to change things. It's more Groundhog Day and less Back to the Future... or Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure... or Twelve Monkeys... or...

MARE

I get it. It's worth a try. Here goes.

B

Wait, let me get out of your way. Good luck.

B exits into closet.

MARE

I'll need this...
(picks up her package for Johnny)
Here goes.

Mare turns the clock.

The lights go down, colored lights come up - Music rises ["Come Along and Ride on a Fantastic Voyage]

Johnny and Gwen come in dressed in colorful clothes, maybe with clocks around their neck. The two bring with them a Deloriam or something that will pass. A monkey in sunglasses appears on the window sill and dances to the music.

Mare gets into the car and rides out with Johnny and Gwen following.

The lights return to normal, music dies, monkey leaves.

Gwen reenters.

MARE (CONT'D)

It worked. I can cross off
traveling through time as things to
do before I die.

(looks at her watch)

They'll be here in a second. What
do I do?

The door starts to open. Johnny and Gwen are laughing.

Mare drops to the side of the couch again. Gwen is still
completely out of breath. Johnny is a little worked up.

GWEN

(barely able to talk for
lack of breath)

How are you not out of breath after
that work out?

JOHNNY

Me and B play Super Handball a lot.

GWEN

Well, you put me through the
wringer.

JOHNNY

That good, huh?

MARE

What am I doing?
(Jumping up)
Hey, guys!

Both Johnny and Gwen jump with surprise.

JOHNNY

Mare! You scared me to death!

GWEN

(breathing and heaving
terribly)

Help! Can't breathe.

Gwen stumbles around, then collapses on floor.

JOHNNY

Oh my god. What'd you do?

MARE

I didn't mean to.

JOHNNY

We have to help her.

Both Mare and Johnny search frantically around the room for something to help Gwen who twitches and flops on the floor.

Johnny goes to the fridge and pulls out the squeeze bottle and sprays Gwen in the face. Gwen slaps Johnny and keeps on gasping.

Mare finds a paper bag on the bookcase, she rushes it over to Gwen and hands it to Johnny.

MARE

Try this.

JOHNNY

(holding bag to Gwen's
mouth)

Breathe in this.

Gwen breathes in and out of the bag.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Alright, just breath. Out with the
bad air, in the with the good, out
with the bad air, in with the good.

MARE

(doing pregnancy
breathing)

Focus on your breathing.

GWEN

(calming down, pushing bag
away)

I'm good now.

MARE

Johnny, get rid of the bag.

JOHNNY

Get rid of it?

MARE

Yeah, get rid of it.

JOHNNY

Okay.

Johnny moves away with the bag full of air. Mare crouches by Gwen.

Johnny slams the bag with his hand and pops it. Gwen jumps and starts to twitch and flop again.

Suddenly Gwen falls limp on the floor.

MARE

Gwen!

(crouching over her)
She's not breathing! What do we do?

JOHNNY

I don't know. Should we call the
RA?

MARE

She is the RA!

JOHNNY

Let's try CPR.

MARE

Do you know how to do that?

JOHNNY

In theory, I've seen Jurassic Park
about a thousand times, when he has
to save the kid after, the kid gets
electrocuted and is twitching..

Johnny starts to twitch and play around.

MARE

Johnny, focus. Okay, I was
certified in Girl Scouts about 5
years ago, so..

JOHNNY

Together we can wing it.

The two pull Gwen to the center of the room so she's lying
flat on the floor with plenty of space. Johnny crouches by
her head, Mare is ready by Gwen's sternum.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Here goes.

Johnny is about to give mouth-to-mouth.

MARE

Wait! Don't kiss... I mean, I'll do
mouth-to-mouth. You do CPR.

JOHNNY

Fine, let's just hurry.

They switch places.

MARE
(about to do mouth-to-
mouth)
I can't do this.

JOHNNY
Alright I'll do it.

He tries to move Mare.

MARE
No, I can do it.

Mare pushes Johnny. The two start pushing back and forth.

JOHNNY
We have to do something.

MARE
I'll do it.

JOHNNY
Then do it.

MARE
Okay, you can do it.

JOHNNY
Fine, move!

MARE
No, I'll do it.

JOHNNY
Get off! Mare, calm, I've got to
do something.

Johnny pushes Mare back.

MARE
No! Stay away...

The two push and fall on top of the passed out Gwen. They
wrestle around.

Johnny finally pushes Mare off of him. Johnny checks Gwen's
body.

JOHNNY
Oh my god. Gwen's dead!

MARE
But... I didn't... She was... Are you
sure?

JOHNNY
 You killed her. No, Gwen. Gwen!
 GWEN!!

Johnny picks up Gwen and carries her out of the room, as he sobs and becomes more and more hysterical.

Mare rushes over to the closet, she reaches into the closet and pulls out B.

B
 Ow! What is it?!

MARE
 I need your time machine.

B
 My time machine... How'd you know about...?

MARE
 It's an emergency. I need it now.

B
 But...

Mare grabs B's nose and starts to twist it.

B (CONT'D)
 Ow, ow, ow! Okay, you can have it.

B goes into closet and comes back with time machine.

B (CONT'D)
 Here.

MARE
 Thanks.

B
 It works on the principle, that no person...

MARE
 Yeah, yeah, yeah, whatever.
 (pushes B back into the closet)
 Here goes.

Mare grabs her present again and resets the alarm clock.

Lights change, music rises, monkey appears and starts dancing
 - Gwen and Johnny enter crazy dancing with car.

Mare pushes Johnny and Gwen and grabs the car and hurriedly drives out of the room. Johnny and Gwen follow.

Everything changes back to normal.

Mare reenters.

MARE (CONT'D)

Alright.

(looking at watch)

It worked again. Wait, I'll just leave, then I can't mess with them.
Brilliant.

Mare rushes out the door.

Johnny and Gwen enter both out of breath, Gwen considerably more so, and well, you read the first two stage directions, it's the same.

GWEN

(barely able to talk for
lack of breath)

How are you not out of breath after
that work out?

JOHNNY

Me and B play Super Handball a lot.

GWEN

Well, you put me through the
wringer.

JOHNNY

That good, huh?

GWEN

Let's just say I'll have the good
soreness tomorrow.

Johnny takes a squeeze bottle from fridge, he drops it and it rolls behind the door, he fumbles and as he's fumbling with it:

Mare enters, the door hits Johnny and Johnny gives a loud "ooofff" and crumbles to the floor.

MARE

Oopps.

GWEN

(rushing over to Johnny)
What'd you do?

MARE
I didn't mean to.

GWEN
(checks Johnny's body)
You killed him. Johnny's dead!

MARE
Oh my god... This can't keep
happening.

GWEN
Johnny... Johnny! JOHNNY!!

Gwen grabs Johnny under the arms and drags him out the door sobbing and growing increasingly hysterical.

Mare rushes over to the closet and pulls out B.

B
Ow! What?! Ow! What do you
want?

MARE
You're time machine now.

B
My time machine? How'd you...?

MARE
There's no time.

Mare goes into the closet and shuffles around in there tossing out a few things [dolls, pots, other embarrassing things]. B picks up these things.

Mare comes back out with time machine.

MARE (CONT'D)
Aha! Here we go!

B
Wait, you need to know...

Mare pushes B in closet.

MARE
I don't need to know that.

Mare resets the clock.

Lights and music changes, monkey appears and dances. Johnny and Gwen enter in their craziness.

Mare grabs the car and is about to jump in, but she stops.

MARE (CONT'D)
 Wait a minute!
 (music stops, to Johnny
 and Gwen)
 Can I have a second?

Johnny and Gwen look at each other, shrug and exit.

MARE (CONT'D)
 I've got to figure out what to do,
 or I'll kill someone else. I can't
 believe Johnny is dead.

LINK
 (the monkey speaks like
 Rafiki)
 Ah, ah, ah, he's alive.

MARE
 (turning to the monkey)
 What? You know me?

LINK
 Correction, I know your father.

MARE
 Huh?

LINK
 I know your father, and he told me
 all about you.

MARE
 Oh... so what're you here for?

LINK
 He's going to help you.

MARE
 Who is? My father?

LINK
 No, he is.

MARE
 He, who?

LINK
 He... me... I am going to help you.

MARE

Why didn't you say that in the first place?

LINK

I did!

MARE

Alright, can we drop the cryptic, and you just talk normal.

LINK

(changing to normal accent)

Yeah, thank god, I hate the tourist (back to Rafiki)

What is your quest? You must beware the... whatever thing.

(back to normal)

It's a pain.

MARE

I feel for you. Now, you were gonna help me?

LINK

Right, sorry. You've been going at it all wrong. You've been trying to change the past, but you can't, you'll just keep repeating the same mistakes. You gotta learn from the mistakes and focus on the future, then you'll be okay.

MARE

So, I just go back to after I attacked Johnny and Gwen the first time, and apologize and make things right.

LINK

You can't. You'd have to go back to where you killed Johnny. You're only option is to go back and try again.

MARE

What about that whole you can't change your past?

LINK

I meant it figuratively... Look,
we're dealing with time travel,
there's some incongruities here.
Get out of here.

MARE

Alright.
(goes to leave)
Thanks for your help.

LINK

That's what I do.

Mare exits.

LINK (CONT'D)

The king has returned.

The lights and everything return to normal.

Mare enters.

MARE

Now what? I might kill somebody
again.

Mare runs aimlessly around room unsure what to do.

The door begins to open. Mare dives onto the couch and pulls
the blanket over herself. Mare closes her eyes and tries to
act asleep, she does a light snore.

Gwen and Johnny enter both breathing heavily, you know the
drill.

GWEN

(barely able to talk for
lack of breath)
How are you not out of breath after
that work out?

JOHNNY

Me and B play Super Handball a lot.
(noticing Mare)
Gwen, shhhh.

GWEN

I'll try to keep my wheezing under
control.

JOHNNY

(lightly shaking Mare)
Mare... mare... wakey, wakey...

MARE

(faking a yawn)

Oh, hey. I came by and you weren't here, so I was going to wait, I guess I fell asleep. Hey, Gwen.

GWEN

Hey.

JOHNNY

I know we're all sweaty and breathing hard, but it's not how it looks, we were just...

MARE

You were jogging.

JOHNNY

Good call. I need a drink.

Johnny goes over to the fridge.

Mare jumps off the couch and bolts over to the door. She throws herself against the door, bracing it closed.

Johnny looks confused.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

You okay?

MARE

I just felt a draft, wanted to make sure the door was solid. Go ahead and get your drink.

JOHNNY

Okay.

Johnny takes out the water bottle and takes a swig.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

You want a drink, Gwen?

GWEN

Sure.

Gwen takes the bottle and takes a swig, and she starts to cough.

Mare runs over to Gwen and starts to hit Gwen on the back.

MARE

Just breathe!

GWEN
 (between coughs)
 Mare, it's okay! It just went down
 the wrong tube. Stop!

Mare continues hitting Gwen, as Gwen coughs. Gwen starts to try and move away from Mare. Gwen stumbles and falls.

Mare grabs Gwen's legs and starts to push Gwen legs and pull them out.

MARE
 You'll be okay! We'll get the
 water out!

GWEN
 Knock it off.

Gwen kicks Mare off of her. Mare dives back at Gwen and tries to grab Gwen's head and start giving her mouth-to-mouth.

Johnny tries to pull Mare off.

JOHNNY
 Mare, let her go, she's fine!

MARE
 She needs help.

GWEN
 I'm fine!

MARE
 Dammit, you're not gonna die on my
 watch!

Johnny grabs Mare around the waist, he lifts her and spins her around and away, as Mare continues to kick and flail trying to get back to Gwen.

Johnny grabs Mare and kisses her, she relaxes.

MARE (CONT'D)
 That was nice.

JOHNNY
 Calm down, Mare. You okay?

MARE
 Sorry, it's been a weird day.

JOHNNY
 That's not right, for our three
 month-er. Let's make it better.

Johnny goes over to the desk and gives Mare her present.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Here.

MARE

Thank you.

(She hands Johnny her
present)

Here's yours, sorry it's kinda
crappy.

GWEN

You two are in the middle of
something, I'll see you later.

JOHNNY

Bye, Gwen.

MARE

Sorry 'bout before.

GWEN

It's cool, a day's not a day, if we
don't have a confrontation. Bye.

Gwen leaves.

JOHNNY

Let's open these.

They both tear into their presents. Johnny looks at his.

MARE

I told you, it's crap..

JOHNNY

Comics! You got me comics for our
anniversary..

MARE

I didn't...

JOHNNY

(cutting her off)
You're the best!

Johnny picks Mare up and hugs her. They kiss.

MARE

I love your present too.

JOHNNY

Tell you what... You go get ready,
I'm gonna get a shower and we'll go
get a nice dinner. Deal?

Johnny grabs his towel.

MARE

Sounds great. Just one thing
first.

Mare goes into the closet, comes out with the time machine.

B is following her.

B

Hey, give it!

MARE

Trust me, this is better.

Mare throws down the time machine, and stomps on it.

B

That's not cool.

MARE

You'll get over it.
(to Johnny)
You ready to go get ready?

JOHNNY

Sure.
(they both walk out the
door)
What was that about?

MARE

Just a timing issue.

Johnny and Mare exit.

B watches Johnny and Mare leave, he scratches his head,
shrugs then goes back into the closet.

Lights down.