# INDEPENDENT LIVING

1X06

"Oh Canada"

Story by Aaron Bielert

Written by Aaron Bielert

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# TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jack sitting watching TV, when the door busts open and Aaron comes walking in.

JACK I hope you don't have the news I think you have.

AARON What news would that be? I don't have any idea what you're talking about.

JACK The news of, you walked out on Melissa again because of worries.

AARON That news, well...

JACK Okay, what happened?

AARON

Everything was going great, we were at her dorm room and we ordered out, and we ate dinner and then she thought it would be great if we put on a movie.

JACK Well that all sounds good, but why are you here and not there?

AARON Well the movie was "The Ex Comes Back"....

JACK So that's great horror flick. \*

# AARON

Maybe for some of us, but I still feel that I'm going to hurt Melissa like I did Amber, What's wrong with me?

# JACK

You're looking way too much into things, the reason you and Amber didn't work was because you both know college is time for new things, the word new, the new girl, Melissa, that's new, you being here with me, not new.

# AARON

Okay so what you're telling me is that it's okay for me to have these worries and I should go out there despite them.

JACK Isn't that what I just said.

AARON Hey pass the popcorn.

JACK Go back to Melissa's!

BLACK OUT.

END OF TEASER

# ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. KINGSTON LOUNGE - DAY

Aaron, Jack, Sarah and Christine sitting drinking coffee.

JACK I'm going to help you with your problem.

AARON I don't have a problem, I have worries.

JACK Same thing, worries, problems, worries are problems.

SARAH Jack might be right, something's wrong.

AARON Look I can't do something my mind won't let me do.

CHRISTINE Hey guys quiet, the question of the day is coming up with the winner winning a trip for two to Niagara Falls.

RADIO (V.O.) The eighth caller right now wins the trip, your question is what fruit is grown in a garden?

AARON That's easy, a tomato.

CHRISTINE Oh, I need to find a phone.

Christine runs over to the pay phone puts a quarter in and dials.

CHRISTINE Yes, am I the eighth caller, YES, a tomato, YES, by four today, okay, thank you.

Christine walks back to the table.

AARON So did you win.

CHRISTINE Yes, I just won....

AARON That's too bad better luck.... What!

CHRISTINE Yeah, I was number eight, I just won the trip and because you helped me win it, I'm taking you.

SARAH That should give you some time to get into the Melissa mood.

AARON I don't know what to say.

JACK How about when I get back, I'll be ready to commit to Melissa.

AARON Stop pushing.

INT. CAMPUS - AMBER'S DORM - DAY

Amber and Christine talking on the bed.

### AMBER

You're taking Aaron, the same Aaron that I broke up with, that Aaron.

#### CHRISTINE

Yes, that Aaron, he helped me get the answer, why wouldn't I take him.

AMBER How about taking me, two sisters, that would be a fun trip.

# CHRISTINE

Sorry sis. I already made up my mind on this one, besides the time away will be good for him.

#### AMBER

It'd be good for me also, why am I always left out?

### CHRISTINE

Well you did break up with him and cause him to be scared of hurting someone.

# AMBER

You say this like I'm the bad guy or girl here.

# CHRISTINE

In a way you are, it was an innocent kiss, he didn't even kiss her, she kissed him.

#### AMBER

Right but I was only protecting myself but, maybe you're right, maybe I only hurt myself.

## CHRISTINE

Well I guess you have time to think about it while we're in Canada.

INT. CAMPUS - MELISSA'S DORM - CONTINUOUS

Melissa is sitting on her computer when Jack comes in.

# MELISSA What's up Jack.

JACK I think I can help you.

MELISSA I don't think so.

# JACK I've been best friends with Aaron for a long time, I know I can help you with him.

# MELISSA

Why bother, it's not going anywhere, he always has to go because he doesn't ever feel good.

#### JACK

But do you know the truth behind the not feeling good. Did you know that Aaron feels that he's might hurt you like he did Amber so he's afraid to get close to you.

#### MELISSA

So what do I do then, if he won't let me get close to him.

#### JACK

Well that's why I'm here, we've got two days to make you Aaron's dream.

INT. CAMPUS - RYAN AND DAN'S DORM - CONTINUOUS

Ryan and Veronica are eating lunch.

RYAN So what do you want to do today?

VERONICA I don't know, what do you want to do?

RYAN Well I was thinking we could play video games all day.

VERONICA Too boring, how about we go see a movie?

RYAN Which one?

VERONICA You like foreign flicks?

RYAN You mean subtitles? How about we go over Aaron's and help Sarah clean.

VERONICA Okay sounds good, Dan won't be back for a few more days from his parents.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

## ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. FALLS HOTEL - LOBBY - DAY

Aaron and Christine are entering the hotel and go to the front desk.

# AARON

Hi, we have reservations, it should be under Christine Johnson.

DESK CLERK Oh Mister and misses Johnson, it's good to have you staying here.

CHRISTINE Um, mister and misses.

DESK CLERK Well yes, the couples contest for the honeymoon suite. We are so glad to have you here.

AARON Christine can I talk to you? Excuse us.

Aaron and Christine walk over to the corner.

CHRISTINE I don't know what's going on before you ask.

#### AARON

Okay I'm going to stay calm, when you entered the contest or listened to it or whatever you do to win, did they say anything about having to be married.

CHRISTINE

Well the contest is for married people, but I didn't think it mattered. I'll take care of this, don't worry.

Aaron and Christine walk back over to the front desk.

DESK CLERK Is everything okay Mister and Misses Johnson?

# CHRISTINE

Actually....

AARON Actually it's Mister and Misses Bielert, she still chooses to use her maiden name.

CHRISTINE Can you excuse us again?

DESK CLERK

Why Not?

Christine drags Aaron back over to around the corner.

CHRISTINE What are you doing?

AARON Just go with it, this trip could be the best thing for both of us to just get away. So they think we're married, who cares, we know

we're not, but what they don't know won't hurt them.

CHRISTINE Whatever you say.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sarah is sitting around watching TV when Ryan and Veronica come through the front door.

RYAN Hey Sarah, thought you could use some company.

SARAH What are you two doing here, you hardly come over anymore.

VERONICA Actually, we never come over, we like staying in at the dorm room.

SARAH So what brings you here, there's some spare pizza on the table there, help yourself's. There some pop in the fridge.

VERONICA Hey Ryan qo qet me a pop.

Ryan goes into the kitchen.

SARAH

Okay where's Dan?

VERONICA

Dan is at his parents for the weekend, so I'm bored out of my mind at the room so I thought I'd come over and hang out with you.

Ryan comes back into the room with two pops, one he hands to Veronica.

RYAN What would we be talking about.

VERONICA We were talking about what to do.

SARAH

Jack's going to be home later, he went to Melissa's to talk to her about Aaron or something like that.

VERONICA Why doesn't Aaron just deal with this problem?

SARAH He's scared to hurt Melissa, I don't understand why, I mean he's really nice and he's got a great hair style and....

VERONICA Something you're not telling us here?

SARAH No, I don't know what you mean.

VERONICA You like Aaron don't you? It makes you jealous that he's with Melissa? CONTINUED: (2)

## SARAH

No, I don't like him, why because he's nice looking and all.

RYAN You like him, I know you do, I can tell, just like Amber.

SARAH What do you mean?

RYAN

Well when Aaron first met Amber she was the same way, always talked about him but was too afraid to tell him, he asked her out.

SARAH Well I don't like him, so let's just drop it.

VERONICA

Okay, liar.

INT. CAMPUS - MELISSA'S DORM - LATER

Melissa and Jack talking, while sitting on the floor.

JACK

Okay look, Aaron is a very formal person, he goes after what he wants, he's not scared to do it.

MELISSA So in other words if Aaron didn't like me, he wouldn't talk to me.

JACK

You're catching on, also Aaron loves to stay in and not go out all the time, but at the same time he likes going out to.

MELISSA

Okay that doesn't make sense at all, he likes to stay in but go out to.

# JACK

I can't explain it, some say Aaron's a nut case, I believe it sometimes.

# MELISSA

Hey he's nice, he just needs a woman to keep him in line.

JACK

That's a no-no. He likes to be independent on his own, he likes wearing the pants, and I guess panties sometimes to.

# MELISSA

What?

JACK Just joking around, I'm just trying to make you laugh.

MELISSA I have a dry sense of humor, sorry.

JACK You and him belong together.

INT. FALLS HOTEL - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Aaron and Christine standing in front of there room.

AARON Well this is it, here we are.

### CHRISTINE

Shall we go in, or are we just going to stand here with these bags all day, maybe we can sleep out here to holding these bags.

# AARON

I get your point.

Aaron and Christine enter the room to see only one bed.

CHRISTINE You're sleeping on the couch.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT TWO

# ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. FALLS HOTEL - ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Aaron and Christine standing in the room, Aaron closes the door.

# AARON

Of course there's just on bed, we're suppose to be married remember.

#### CHRISTINE

Hey you're the one who went along with it, I'm so not sleeping in the same bed with you, it only leads to bad things.

### AARON

You mean sex, I'm sorry that would be just wrong, it'd be like sleeping with my ex's sister, besides I've never even had sex nor do I want to with you, so what's the problem.

## CHRISTINE

The problem is there's only one bed, one bed, not two, one, I'm not sleeping in the same bed as you, I don't care if we don't plan on doing that S. word together, which by the way I feel the same about, plus you're with Melissa. Plus you're my sister's exboyfriend. Besides you got us into this by going along with it and making me Misses Bielert, so I think you should sleep in the bathtub.

### AARON

Why me, how about we just put a curtain between us and we don't go beyond that curtain.

# CHRISTINE

How about you just bite me. I don't care if you like it or not, I'm taking the bed, you can just find somewhere else to sleep.

AARON Fine I'll sleep in the chair over here, next to the bed.

CHRISTINE

Fine.

AARON

Fine.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Sarah, Ryan and Veronica sitting on the floor watching a movie when Amber comes barging in the door.

AMBER

Am I not a good sister to Christine?

SARAH

Doesn't anybody knock anymore?

AMBER

I'm serious Sarah, I should be there in Canada with my sister, not Aaron.

RYAN

Why are you so worried, Aaron's going with Melissa. Aaron has no interest in Christine, or you anymore.

#### AMBER

Oh and you just had to push that in my face now didn't you. You've always been against me since day one haven't you?

### VERONICA

Guys, girls, whatever, we're trying to watch a movie, who cares who's against who and who hates who or who's dating who. It's college, enjoy it, at least you aren't graduating and have no idea what to do with life.

#### SARAH

Veronica's right, if you want to fight, take it back to your place Amber, let's be civilized here.

AMBER Fine, I guess we can get along then, right Ryan?

RYAN Hey I was telling it how it is.

AMBER Why can't you leave it where it is just dropping it.

RYAN Fine it's dropped, whatever.

EXT. CANADA - PARK - DAY

Aaron sitting on a park bench when some girl comes and sits next to him.

AARON

Hi.

KELLY Hi, You look like something's wrong.

AARON No, nothing's wrong except my whole life.

KELLY

I'm Kelly, I live here in Niagara, I actually work at the falls.

AARON I thought all Canadians were French?

KELLY Where do you Americans get your stuff?

AARON I don't expect you to understand about my life.

KELLY

Try me.

#### AARON

Okay well see I just started college this year and it's been a year to remember, in only six episodes too, any ways I just got out of a relationship which ended on a bad note with me hurting the girl accidentally. And now this new girl comes into the picture and I'm afraid of hurting her now. People always say college is suppose to be the best time of your life but it's become the worst for me.

#### KELLY

Cleveland, huh?

# AARON

How'd you know?

#### KELLY

You just seem like a Clevelander, any ways have you tried maybe just letting time take itself, things have ways of working themselves out if you let them without worrying about things like you're worrying about.

AARON You look familiar, did you ever visit Cleveland, I live in Parma.

#### KELLY

I was born in Berea, I moved here when I turned eighteen. I come back to Cleveland during the summer, maybe I'll see you there to give you some more good advice, by the way, go Braves.

Kelly gets up and leaves.

INT. FALLS HOTEL - ROOM - LATER

Christine is sitting on the bed reading a newspaper when Aaron comes walking into the room.

AARON I've given this some thought about the Melissa thing.

## CHRISTINE

What? I thought we weren't getting along?

#### AARON

Who cares about that, I'm thanking you for coming on this trip, This has been a great trip.

# CHRISTINE

Oh I know, I went to the Falls today and took some real good pictures, and I thought about the whole bed thing and I was wrong, we should be mature enough to sleep in the same bed and not make a big deal out of it, I mean it's just sleeping, actual sleeping with snoring included.

### AARON

That's great, I really love details on sleeping and all, and you should write a book on it, but I ran into some girl today down at the park and she gave me some real good advice right, things have a way of working themselves out and she's right, why should I worry about hurting anybody, I should be having fun, but the thing is what the girl said later, I think I know her.

## CHRISTINE

What? Let me get this straight. You ran into some girl who gave you some advice on your situation and you might know her.

### AARON

Well she said Go Braves before she left and the way she said it, the same way this Berea High School girl with the same name who was a cheerleader there used to say it. Remember I went to Middlebrook High School, which is.....

#### CHRISTINE

I go there remember, yes I know, in the same district, I'm not stupid. (MORE) CONTINUED: (2)

CHRISTINE (cont'd) So you want to go get some dinner,

it's pur last night here, we have to go home tomorrow, we only got one day here, it was better than nothing right.

AARON

Yeah it was a good trip, let's get some food.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

# ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Sarah, Veronica and Ryan sitting on the couch drinking pop and eating chips.

SARAH

I don't understand why Amber get's so defensive over everything.

RYAN

In high school, we had some bad times, we didn't get along very well.

VERONICA No kidding, I could feel the heat between you too.

RYAN I made a lot of bad mistakes in high school, I was a jerk.

SARAH

Why does she still hold that stuff against you?

RYAN I tried to break them up in high school.

SARAH

Yeah, well Aaron and Christine get back tomorrow, so I think I'm going to hit the sack, just lock up when you leave.

RYAN We get the point, we'll see you tomorrow.

Ryan and Veronica get up and leave.

SARAH We need to get a watch dog.

INT. MELISSA'S DORM ROOM

Jack and Melissa sitting on the floor still talking.

JACK

I think you're teaching me more about Aaron than I'm teaching you.

#### MELISSA

What do you mean?

# JACK

Well if you don't know everything there is to know about Aaron now, then you'll never know anything about Aaron.

#### MELISSA

You and Aaron are really good friends aren't you?

#### JACK

We're the best, we've known each other for so long now, I consider us like brothers.

# MELISSA

Why do you care about Aaron so much, I mean to do something like this for him.

## JACK

I'm not just doing this for Aaron, I'm doing this for all men across the United States. See Aaron is Amber-ed and many other guys in this world are too, so I can do one thing for this world, it's to help my best friend to be with someone.

#### MELISSA

You know why did I even ask. I should have known I would have gotten an answer like that.

#### JACK

No I care about Aaron and want him to be happy.

# MELISSA

Now that's something I didn't expect to come out of your mouth.

#### JACK

I'm cursed with a good heart.

INT. CAMPUS - AMBER'S DORM - DAY

The next morning, Christine and Amber are talking sitting on Amber's bed about the trip.

### AMBER

So what was the falls like.

# CHRISTINE

It was amazing, The trip had some surprising moments about it too, but I think it's what Aaron needed. By the way did you know of a Kelly from Berea?

#### AMBER

No, Why should I?

#### CHRISTINE

Never mind. I'm telling you, I wish you could have been there, the view from the hotel was great, it overlooked this park, everything about Canada is so much different from Ohio.

AMBER I'm glad you had so much fun.

CHRISTINE So what did you do while we were gone.

AMBER I hung out with Ryan and Veronica over at your place.

CHRISTINE Sounds fun.

# INT. KINGSTON LOUNGE - LATER

Aaron sitting at a table with Jack and Sarah.

JACK Spill it man, what happened up there, anything.

# AARON

Well the Falls were beautiful, but nothing much happened. Some unusual thing though.

# SARAH

Like what.

### AARON

Well for starters, they thought we were married and then the room only had one bed, everything that could have gone wrong went wrong but at the same time everything that could have went right went right.

#### SARAH

I wish I could have gone.

JACK

I wish I could afford to go.

#### AARON

So did any of you see Melissa, was she upset that I went?

## SARAH

I spent the whole weekend at home with Veronica and Ryan. But someone else spent the weekend at Melissa's.

AARON Why would you spend the weekend at Melissa's?

#### JACK

I was trying to help you out, so I thought I would help Melissa to get to know you. Now before you get mad, remember I'm your best friend.

AARON I'm not mad, I know you're my best friend, you wouldn't do that if you weren't.

Ryan and Dan come walking in and sit down with Aaron, Jack and Sarah.

CONTINUED: (2)

# RYAN

So what was the trip like?

# AARON

Good, it's just what the doctor ordered. The best part of the trip was the advice I got from this girl.

## DAN

What was the advice?

### AARON

The advice was not to worry about things because things always have a way of working themselves out, but I think the real message was to live everyday like the past doesn't exist. And by the way Christine told me to tell your parents thanks for setting up the radio question.

JACK

What, what is going on.

#### AARON

Well we were at dinner last night and she told me how she and Ryan got together with Dan because he knew Dan's parents ran the radio station and got a fake question and a fake win trip to Canada.

JACK

What about the married thing at the desk then?

# AARON

There was a mix-up when the reservations were made, but I thank you both, I needed the trip.

### RYAN

Hey I knew that.

Melissa comes walking in and sits at a different table.

# AARON

If you'll excuse me I have something to go do.

Aaron gets up and walks to Melissa's table.

CONTINUED: (3)

SARAH He did need that trip.

CUT TO: Aaron sitting down with Melissa at her table.

AARON

Hi.

MELISSA

Hi.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW