

LANEY'S BUZZING

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. HOUSE - MORNING

ESTABLISHING: Stereotypical suburban two-story upper middle class house.

SUPER: Laney's Buzzing

INT. LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - MORNING

SITCOM SET. A small living room with brightly colored decorations: Chinese characters on a tacky painting, pillows with tribal designs and other cultural appropriations.

Behind it is a kitchen with no door and lots of colored plastic utensils. Cooking breakfast is **MARGARET** (45), scrambling eggs on a large frying pan. She looks content.

On the kitchen counter next to Margaret, a GOLDFISH jumps out of its fish bowl into the trash can next to it.

MARGARET

Oh, that's the third fish this week!

Reading the newspaper from the couch in the living room, **BLAKE** (47) chips in, your tough-love patriarch.

BLAKE

And it's only Tuesday!

The AUDIENCE LAUGHS.

Left of the kitchen is the stairway to the second floor. White wooden railing runs along its side.

**LANEY** (17) walks down with her "Kanye 2020" campaign buttons pinned to her backpack and earphones plugged into her Zune.

AUDIENCE: CHEERS.

She walks to the kitchen.

Just as Laney passes by, Margaret tugs at one of her earphone cables so her daughter can hear her.

MARGARET

Morning, honey!

The natural tone of Laney's voice is sarcastic without being disrespectful.

LANEY

Mooooom, I was listening to Green Day.

AUDIENCE: LAUGHS.

Margaret keeps scrambling those eggs.

MARGARET

Breakfast is almost ready. Did you do what I asked you to yesterday?

Laney responds with her catchphrase, which includes a slight tilt of the head.

LANEY

Meeeeaning?

AUDIENCE: LAUGHS HYSTERICALLY.

Blake walks into the kitchen, newspaper under one arm and a heavy TRASH BAG in the other hand.

BLAKE

No she didn't.

AUDIENCE: LAUGHS.

Laney makes her best puppy face.

LANEY

Sorry, mom. I was just so swamped studying for my Phys Ed exam yesterday that I couldn't find the time.

Margaret looks at Laney up and down like Joey from Friends.

MARGARET

Didn't study hard enough.

AUDIENCE: LAUGHS.

LANEY

Mooooom.

Blake fake coughs to get their attention.

AUDIENCE: LAUGHS.

BLAKE

So, who's gonna take out the trash?

LANEY

I'm kind of running late for school, dad...

BLAKE

Those tricks don't work on me, young lady.

LANEY

(laughs)

I was just Draking your Josh, dad. I'll take care of it.

BLAKE

Catch!

Laney's eyes widen, Blake throws the trash bag to her.

She catches it but it's so heavy that it sends her to the floor.

Laney lies on the floor without moving, the large trash bag covering her face.

Blake and Margaret look at each other, worried. They look at the floor without moving.

MARGARET

Laney?

Laney turns her face to the side. Her expression is dead serious, her eyes are open like she just had a revelation.

She throws the trash bag to the side, sits up. The sarcasm in her voice is gone.

LANEY

I'm fine.

Blake and Margaret look at each other, confused. He whispers to her.

BLAKE

What the heck?

Laney gets up, rubs the back of her head.

LANEY

I should probably be heading out to school now.

MARGARET

What about breakfast?

Margaret serves onto a plate on the kitchen table some scrambled eggs. They're overcooked and dry as hell.

Laney grabs a piece with two fingers, holds it up to take a better look.

LANEY  
Feels like plastic, mom.

AUDIENCE: LAUGHS FAINTLY.

Laney drops the piece with a frown, looks around the room.

LANEY (CONT'D)  
What was that?

BLAKE  
What was what?

A beat.

She shakes her head.

LANEY  
Nothing. Forget it... must be my  
imagination.

Blake sits down at the kitchen table in front of the plate with the scrambled eggs.

BLAKE  
If you won't have them--

He grabs a fork and stuffs his face with a mouthful of scrambled eggs, makes a funny face at the bad taste. He talks to Margaret before swallowing.

BLAKE (CONT'D)  
Could use a little salt, honey...

AUDIENCE: LAUGHS.

Laney covers her ears, distressed. Blake notices this but doesn't stand up.

BLAKE (CONT'D)  
You okay there, Laney?

Laney looks weak, her eyes are starting to turn red.

LANEY  
I don't feel too good, dad.

BLAKE

Uh oh, is it that time of the month?

Laney responds totally serious, almost offended.

LANEY

Meaning?

AUDIENCE: LAUGHS HYSTERICALLY.

Laney falls to her knees, covers her ears, looks up.

Margaret looks at Laney, scared and dumbfounded.

MARGARET

I-- I think we need to take you to Doctor Harris.

INT. DOCTOR HARRIS' OFFICE - DAY

The room is brightly lit and the various pieces of medical equipment shine as if new.

In the center of the room on top of an examination table is Laney, dressed in a HOSPITAL GOWN. Her eyes look normal again.

Margaret sits in a chair tucked in a corner.

DOCTOR HARRIS (70) enters the room, finishes putting on his leather belt. His gaze moves between Laney and Margaret. He is visibly disoriented.

DOCTOR HARRIS

Ahh... hey. Sorry about the tardiness, I wasn't really supposed to be today. So what am I looking at?

MARGARET

Laney's not feeling too good, doc.

DOCTOR HARRIS

Right.

Beat.

DOCTOR HARRIS (CONT'D)

Who's Laney?

Margaret points to Laney. Doctor Harris goes to examine her.

He takes out a tongue depressor.

DOCTOR HARRIS (CONT'D)

Open wide.

Laney opens her mouth, Doctor Harris points a small flashlight down her throat and examines it. He puts his instruments away, closes her mouth, turns to Margaret.

DOCTOR HARRIS (CONT'D)

I really wasn't expecting you today-  
I mean I don't see anything out of  
the ordinary.

MARGARET

So is everything going to be okay?

DOCTOR HARRIS

Uh... we should conduct a vision  
test just to be sure.

Doctor Harris moves to the wall of the room where an EYE CHART is located. The letters at the top are much bigger than the ones at the bottom. A capital "B" is at the very top.

DOCTOR HARRIS (CONT'D)

Okay cover your right eye and look  
at the letters in each column,  
beginning with the one at the very  
top. What's the first one?

LANEY

"B".

Doctor Harris points to a letter beneath it.

LANEY (CONT'D)

"A".

He points to the letter beneath it.

LANEY (CONT'D)

I think I can read the entire  
column.

DOCTOR HARRIS

What does it say?

A beat.

LANEY

Bazzinga.

The AUDIENCE goes apeshit with LAUGHTER.

All the pain comes back to Laney, she covers her ears again. The LAUGHTER of the AUDIENCE doesn't stop this time.

She rushes to the door, exits and--

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY

--inexplicably appears in her house stairway, still in her hospital gown.

Baffled, she runs down. The AUDIENCE LAUGHTER persists.

A large colorful ribbon hangs across the room. It reads: "Congrats on passing your Phys Ed exam!!!". Colored balloons are scattered throughout as well.

Blake sits on the couch of the living room reading the NEWSPAPER. Laney stumbles her way to him, begs for his help.

LANEY

Dad! Help me please. Please, dad.  
Do something!

Blake keeps reading his newspaper - it's all a huge SPORTS SECTION with PENIS ENLARGEMENT ADS peppered here and there.

BLAKE

Laney, you're being such a drama queen!

The AUDIENCE LAUGHTER gets LOUDER.

Laney runs to the main entrance to her left, exits and immediately enters the room again through the door on the opposite side.

The AUDIENCE LAUGHTER gets EVEN LOUDER.

Laney looks around the room in pain with tears in her eyes.

LANEY

(shouts)  
Why the *fuck* are they laughing?

A loud THUD from the forefront captures her attention, she moves warily to investigate its origin.

Laney gets too close and runs into an invisible wall. She strikes the screen with all her might. Waves ripple across the glass but it doesn't shatter. She keeps trying to no avail.

Laney opens her mouth to scream but no sound comes out.

A beat.

Laney hits the invisible wall again. She continues to do so while the AUDIENCE LAUGHTER gradually dies down as the CAMERA PULLS BACK past the invisible wall to:

INT. DARKENED ROOM - NIGHT

Laney, Margaret and Blake sit on a plastic couch. The light from the TELEVISION in front of them illuminates their HYSTERICAL LAUGHTER. They're dressed differently but are the same people. They finally stop laughing.

LANEY

That was a great episode.

MARGARET

Yeah, that was a real doozy.

LANEY

I can't imagine what I would do if that happened to me.

BLAKE

Wait, what do you mean?

LANEY

Well, I don't know how I would escape that situation.

BLAKE

But you were in that situation. I just saw you on the TV.

MARGARET

It's not the same, honey.

(beat)

Right?

Laney frowns, thinking. Turns to look AT THE CAMERA.

FADE OUT.