

ABBOTT ELEMENTARY

"St. Patrick's Day"

Written by

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Synopsis: A student sees Janine hanging destroying the room for St. Patrick's day, and Melissa tells him she's a leprechaun. Much to Melissa's dismay, Janine tries to keep up that act the whole day to appear cooler to the students. Meanwhile, Ava asks Gregory to cover the gym class while the teacher is out, and Jacob volunteers himself to help. The two argue on what to teach the students. Barbara has been struggling with a student who's been drawing violent pictures of her.

INT. JANINE'S CLASSROOM - VERY EARLY MORNING

JANINE scurries around the empty room, throwing green glitter everywhere, tipping student's chairs over, scattering school supplies around the room, etc. Trashing the room, essentially.

She stands back, admiring her work.

JANINE TALKING HEAD

JANINE

What the heck happened here?! Did Abbott get robbed? Maybe I should call the police.

(looking behind the camera)

Oh. You guys saw me setting up... Okay. Ya caught me, it was me. Today is St. Patrick's Day, so I took it upon myself to get here at 5:30 in the morning and wreck the classroom as if a leprechaun did it. I'm not really sure what to do now, since it's only 5:45 and I'm basically done... Oh! I know.

Janine grabs a step ladder and attempts to hang up a sign that says 'Have a Terrible St. Patrick's Day, Love, The Leprechaun:)'

The beam she tries to hang it up on is comically too high for her. Even on the step ladder.

JANINE (CONT'D)

Do you think the sign is too mean? I had him say 'love' at the end. To soften the blow of the 'terrible.'

Janine continues to jump and struggle to get the sign up.

JANINE (CONT'D)

(looking to the camera)

So you're not gonna help me-okay.

She stops out of exhaustion.

JEREMIAH (Janine's student, 8) walks in, seeing Janine prep the classroom and stops in fear.

JEREMIAH

Ms. Teagues...?

Janine jumps.

JANINE

AHHHHHH! My fffuuu- Jeremiah. What are you doing here so early?

JEREMIAH

Oooooooooo! Ms. Teagues almost said the f word!

JANINE

I was gonna said ffffriend! My fffriend Jeremiah! Whatever, will you please just answer my question?

JEREMIAH

My mom said she's gonna start dropping me off early on Mondays so she can watch the new *Euphoria* episodes in peace and quiet.

JANINE

Okay, first of all, she's not allowed to do that. Second of all, that's actually fair. Sometimes that show needs to be watched alone, in a dark room.

Jeremiah looks around the room.

JEREMIAH

Was there a drug raid Ms. Teagues?

JANINE

Jeremiah. You should not be watching *Euphoria* with your mom. And no. There wasn't a drug raid, do you even know what that means?

MELISSA walks by Janine's classroom, realizes Janine is there, and walks backwards. She peeks in the room.

JEREMIAH

Why were you trashing the room?

Janine attempts to hide the banner that was failed to be hung up.

MELISSA

Oh no.

Janine looks to Melissa with 'help me' eyes.

Melissa steps in the classroom. She stands next to Janine.

JANINE
 (muttering)
 What are you doing here so early?

MELISSA
 (muttering back)
 I have an intense routine I do every morning before school starts. And if I don't follow it step by step, my day is guaranteed to be unsuccessful.

JANINE
 Then why are you-

MELISSA
 (to Jeremiah)
 Jeremiah. Are you good at keeping secrets?

JEREMIAH
 Probably not.

Melissa closes the door.

MELISSA
 You're just gonna have to try.

JANINE
 Melissa.

Melissa bends down so she's eye to eye with Jeremiah.

MELISSA
 Do you know what a leprechaun is, Jeremiah?

JEREMIAH
 I'm eight, not stupid!

MELISSA
 Okay, okay. Just making sure. Now. It's St. Patrick's Day, which is their favorite holiday. That's when all of them are born, or something. I don't know. Anyways, this mess you're witnessing here is a very obvious case of Leprechaunism.

JEREMIAH
 But... I saw Ms. Teagues doing it. So does that mean...?

MELISSA
Yes. Yes it does.

JANINE
(muttering)
Melissa, we really shouldn't be the
one's to tell him-

MELISSA
Ms. Teagues is a leprechaun.

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

GREGORY stands in front of his room, greeting students as they enter his classroom.

JACOB walks up to Gregory.

JACOB
How's my number one dude bro doing,
am I right?

GREGORY
Jacob, I would love if you would
just... Call me by my name.

JACOB
Alright then, Timothee Chalamet.

GREGORY
Who?

JACOB
Ugh. Straight people.

AVA's voice comes over the loudspeaker.

AVA (O.S.)
Gregory Eddie and his God-like
athleticism and muscles are needed
in my office. Privately. No one
else. Thanks!

Gregory looks at the camera, rolling his eyes.

JACOB
Wonder what that's about.

GREGORY
If she asks me to open a jar with
no shirt on again, I *will* say no
this time.

Gregory walks towards Ava's office. Jacob follows.

JACOB
Maybe I should come along with. I'm
sure she can use some extra muscle.
And if not, you could probably use
a witness.

INT. AVA'S OFFICE - MORNING

When Gregory and Jacob enter, Ava has acupuncture needles sticking out of her face. Her eyes are closed.

GREGORY

Oh my God, Ava. What are you doing?

Her eyes are still closed.

AVA

Acupuncture. Good treatment for stress. Jacob why are you here too?

JACOB

How did you know I was here? Your eyes are closed.

AVA

I can smell Fancy Forever, Jessica Simpson's perfume. Your signature sent. Gregory, yours is...

She sniffs.

AVA (CONT'D)

Old Spice? Damn Gregory, I expected more from you.

JACOB

That *is* mildly disappointing.

GREGORY

Is there something you needed from me, Ava?

AVA

Right. I'm all wound up today, hence the needles in my face, because the gym teacher decided it was the perfect day to fracture his ribs, and be out for the next two days. And there's no PE subs, because why would there be?

JACOB

My God, poor Mr. Clay. How did that happen?

AVA

I'm not exactly sure. All he said was the 76ers lost against the Celtics.

GREGORY

Enough said.

AVA

Gregory, could you cover the gym classes that overlap with your free periods?

GREGORY

Well, I don't know if I can.

AVA

Too bad, it wasn't a question.

JACOB

You know, I could also offer some assistance in this matter.

AVA

How?

GREGORY

Yeah Jacob, I would be doing it in my free periods, so I don't need anyone to cover my class.

JACOB

I don't mean that. I can teach gym!

Ava finally opens her eyes, locks them with Gregory, and they both laugh.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Come on, Gregory. I thought we were best friends.

GREGORY

I literally have never said that.

JACOB

I just don't understand why I wasn't asked. I'm one of the only other young, male athletic teachers in this school.

AVA

Two of those things are true.

GREGORY

Do you have any experience with sports?

JACOB

I was actually the captain of the color guard team in high school, thank you very much.

AVA

He said sports experience, not art, Jacob.

JACOB

What if... We did it together? Gregory and my free periods line up this week. We can get the best bro squad back together? Nothing better than two buds gettin sweaty and... Okay I'll stop.

AVA

Fine. Do it together. I don't care, I just really want this conversation to be over.

AVA TALKING HEAD

AVA (CONT'D)

As long as Gregory plays for the skins team, I'm cool with whatever they do.

INT. TEACHER'S LOUNGE - DAY

Melissa and Janine sit at the table.

JANINE

I'm worried that Jeremiah's gonna go around telling everyone. God forbid it gets to one of the older kids, and they wind up telling him magic's not real. I can't be responsible for that. I don't know how I would live with myself.

Janine freaks out, putting her head down on the table.

MELISSA

Whoa kiddo, calm down. He's not gonna utter a peep. Trust me, us Schemmentis are no strangers to swearing someone to secrecy.

Jacob and Gregory walk in.

JACOB
Hey Janine, is Riverdance in town?

GREGORY
Where you hiding that pot of gold?

Janine puts her head back down on the desk and groans.
Melissa puts a reassuring hand on Janine's back.

MELISSA
Guess the news spread, huh?

GREGORY
Oh yeah. The whole third grade is
in a buzz about it.

JACOB
The older kids too.

Janine groans again.

GREGORY
I don't understand what's so bad
about this?

MELISSA
Janine's worried that the magic is
gonna get ruined for the kids.

JACOB
Oh come on. It's not like we're
telling them Santa isn't real.

At the same time as Jacob says that, a child is walking by
the teacher's lounge, door open, and hears Jacob, stopping in
his tracks.

STUDENT 1
He's not??

STUDENT 1 runs away crying. Jacob sighs and runs after him.

JACOB
(shouting after him)
Santa is more of concept!

GREGORY
Maybe I should try to help...
Diffuse that.

Gregory runs after Jacob.

MELISSA

I'm sure you've got nothing to worry about. If any of the kids bring it up, we'll just change the subject. It'll be over. After you give a speech about St. Patrick's Day to my class. I already promised them.

JANINE

Melissa!

MELISSA

What? It was the only thing to shut them up about it.

Barbara walks in and looks to Janine.

BARBARA

Awww, why so sad, Janine? Did you lose your pot of gold?

JANINE

Ugh, the kindergarteners heard about it too?

BARBARA

Heard about what? I was just making fun of your short stature.

MELISSA

All the kids think Janine's a leprechaun.

Barbara begins to laugh. It goes on for a really long time.

JANINE

Alright, come on now. It really isn't *that* funny.

BARBARA

All I'm saying is you shouldn't be complaining Janine. I've had one heck of a morning myself. I have this student... Who has been... Expressing himself recently.

JANINE

Oh, God.

MELISSA

Jesus, Barb. You'd think the parents would teach him to not do that in public.

BARBARA

Oh dear Lord, that is *not* what I meant. Get your heads out of the gutter. My student has been drawing pictures of me. Normally, this would be a very sweet sentiment but... They are all rather... Graphic.

They gasp.

JANINE

(whispering)

These pictures... Are you... In the nude?

BARBARA

Good heavens, no! You both need to go to confession, my goodness. This young man keeps drawing pictures of me being brutally murdered. Getting hit by a bus, eaten by a monster. They're very detailed and includes lots of red on the page.

Melissa and Janine gasp again.

MELISSA

That's how it always starts. If you need me to, I can do an in-depth background check on the kid's family. See if they have any serial killer ties.

BARBARA

I don't think that's necessary, Melissa.

JANINE

Yeah, I'm sure the kid is just... Expressing his creativity! It's probably best to not hinder his process. Clip his wings, if you will.

BARBARA

That's what I thought. At first. Then he brought in a picture of me in a coffin, and the class at my funeral, which felt a little too real. So, I settled on sending a note home to the parents.

INT. GYMNASIUM - DAY

Gregory is shooting hoops when Jacob comes in wearing 80's workout sweatbands.

Gregory looks at Jacob, then to the camera. He sighs.

GREGORY

Mr. Clay was about to start a basketball unit, so I'm thinking we just continue with that.

JACOB

And I'm totally hearing you, and loving this passion your exuding right now. But, what if I were to tell you... I have an even better idea?

Jacob goes on his phone, while Gregory awaits a response.

GREGORY

Are you gonna tell me or...?

JACOB

Dramatic effect, Gregory. Be patient.

They stand in awkward silence while Jacob clicks away on his phone.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Okay, got it. Boom.

Jacob shows a powerpoint presentation on his phone. There are pictures of a young Jacob with a cowboy hat on, holding square dancing trophies.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Square dancing.

GREGORY

We *just* learned about this like ten minutes ago, how did you--

JACOB

I'm a wiz on Canva. And I have all my square dancing pictures stored on a flash drive in my satchel.

JACOB TALKING HEAD

JACOB (CONT'D)

I competed in professional square dancing competitions from the ages of eight to thirteen. I was phenomenal. I was once told I had the swagger of a young John Travolta in *Saturday Night Fever*. I wore a white pleather fringe jacket for five straight years.

AS WE WERE

JACOB (CONT'D)

Ever since I was thirteen, I've been desperately searching for any opportunity to go back to my square dancing roots. My southern roots.

GREGORY

I didn't know you were from the South.

JACOB

Oh God no, I'm from Long Island. But *Brokeback Mountain* was my sexual awakening, so. Let's just say the West and I have a... Wild history.

Gregory looks at the camera.

GREGORY

Nah, I don't need to know all that.

INT. MELISSA'S CLASSROOM

Janine stands at the front of the room, wearing a leprechaun hat.

JANINE

(horrible Irish accent)
The history of St. Patrick Day dates way back to 1631--

SHANE

Why are you talking like that?

JANINE TALKING HEAD.

JANINE

Clearly watching that one scene from *Banshees of Inisherin* on Youtube wasn't enough.

AS WE WERE

JANINE (CONT'D)
 (with horrible accent
 again)
 The Christian Church established a
 wee Feast Day for St. Patrick,
 patron saint of--

ISABELLA
 Yawwwwnnn.

STEVEN
 When are you gonna tell us about
 how you poop candy?

CAMERON
 Do you pee out chocolate sauce?

Melissa walks up to Janine.

MELISSA
 (muttering)
 I think you're losing 'em, shorty.

JANINE
 Uhhh... We leprechauns are very
 good luck! If you meet one, they
 can grant you three wishes.

MELISSA
 (muttering again)
 Genies. That's genies.

JANINE
 They won't know the difference.
 Aladdin is considered like...
 Vintage to them now.

INT. MELISSA'S CLASSROOM - A COUPLE OF MINUTES LATER

The kids are all lined up to sit on Janine's lap, like Santa,
 to tell her their three wishes.

CAMERON
 I wish that Mom will get us Burger
 King for dinner.

KEVIN
 I wish that Ashley would ask me on
 a date.

KEVIN looks over at ASHLEY, who waves at him.

MASON

(whispering)

I wish I was on a regular poop
schedule.

ALEX

I wish my dog would come back from
the farm he got sent to.

JACKIE

I wish my mommy and daddy will stop
screaming at each other when my
brother and I are trying to sleep.

Janine looks at JACKIE, then at the camera, then at Melissa.

MELISSA

(to Janine)

Kiddo, I think we gotta cut this
off. You don't wanna give anyone an
offer that's gonna be refused.

JANINE

What? Why?

MELISSA

I'm saying you don't have to keep
doing this if you don't wanna.

JANINE

I actually don't mind it. I've
never felt so much short pride in
my life. I get why gay people are
so happy in June now. Oooh... Was
that a bad thing to say?

MELISSA

All I'm saying is I know a lil'
something about a power trip. Ever
seen me after one of my gambling
streaks?

JANINE

I try my best not to. And this
isn't a power trip. I'm just.
Reaping the rewards of being a
magical teacher.

MELISSA

Don't let the fame get to your
head, Lucky Charms. It ain't gonna
end well.

Melissa pats Janine on the back and sits at her desk.

JANINE

Who wants some of my magic pixie
dust??

The students go wild. Janine throws glitter all over them.

MASON

Ms. Teagues, you're the coolest
teacher in the whole world!!

MELISSA TALKING HEAD.

MELISSA

I've always been the cool teacher.
Sure, I'm not the youngest. But
Jacob's like the kid's embarrassing
younger brother, and Janine acts
like their great aunt who sends
them custom made Pinterest boards.
I'M the one with ties to the mob!
You can't get cooler than that. I'm
like your hip older cousin who
introduces you to weed.

AS WE WERE

Janine is now having a dance party to some Irish folk song
with the kids.

SHANE walks up to Melissa's desk.

SHANE

Ms. Schemmenti?

MELISSA

What's up, Shane?

SHANE

Can Ms. Teagues be our teacher from
now on?

Melissa looks at the camera.

ACT TWO

INT. GYMNASIUM - DAY

Gregory brings out basketballs from the supply closet.

GREGORY

I'm sorry, Jacob I just don't see how square dancing is as athletic as basketball.

JACOB

I'm not saying it's *as* athletic. I'm saying it's *more*.

GREGORY

I don't think that's true.

JACOB

I'll prove it to you.

Jacob pulls out his phone and connects it to the speaker.

GREGORY

Oh, you don't have to--

A twangy upbeat country song plays.

Jacob dances, swinging himself round and round, doing a clearly choreographed routine.

GREGORY (CONT'D)

(over the music)

Did you have this memorized?

JACOB

It's one of the many swing routines I have in my repertoire.

STUDENTS flood in. They point to Jacob and laugh, but he's too busy performing with exuberant amounts of euphoria to notice.

Jacob finishes the dance. The students clap for him ironically, but he doesn't catch on and bows proudly to them.

JACOB (CONT'D)

See Gregory? Seems like everyone would love to do square-dancing instead of basketball.

JAMES
Whoa, whoa, whoa.

PETER
Let's not get crazy now.

SAM
We never said that.

GREGORY
Maybe we should put it to a vote?

JACOB
(confidently)
That's a great idea, Mr. Eddie.
Let's vote. Who would rather do
square dancing?

At first, no one raises their hand. After a few seconds, only HENRY hesitantly raises his hand.

Jacob looks at the camera, embarrassed.

GREGORY
Alright, looks like it's unanimous.

JACOB
You know what? That's not fair to
poor Henry, over here. Inclusivity
is literally Abbott's motto.

Gregory shakes his head at the camera.

Jacob crosses to Henry.

HENRY
It's fine.

JACOB
(whispering to Henry)
Act sadder.

HENRY
(to Gregory)
It's okay. I'm used to not getting
what I want.

JACOB
(whispering)
Damn, that was a good one.
(normal voice)
Mr. Eddie. Don't you think all the
kids should be able to do what
they're comfortable with?

GREGORY

What are you suggesting?

JACOB

What if Henry and I took this side of the gym... And a little more because dancing takes up more space. And you guys take this side of the gym. For basketball.

Gregory looks at the camera and shrugs.

GREGORY

Alright.

GREGORY TALKING HEAD

GREGORY (CONT'D)

I don't care what he does. If anything, I would prefer this. I don't think I have the capacity to teach a grown man how to play basketball. Let alone Jacob.

INT. BARBARA'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Barbara is going through the horrible drawings her student made.

BEN walks up to Barbara's desk, and puts down two more pictures.

BARBARA

Oh, fabulous. You drew me more pictures.

BEN

This is you on a fishing pole, waiting to get eat by a shark.

BARBARA

Oh my.

BEN

And this is you with a knife in your head!

Melissa walks in, angrily.

Barbara sends Ben back to his seat.

BARBARA

We'll talk about this later Ben,
thank you for the pictures.

MELISSA

I can't get control of my class
Barb. It's makin' me wanna go all
cavone on them.

BARBARA

I don't think I wanna know what
that means.

MELISSA

It's all Janine's fault! She's got
the whole class all riled up about
her and her "magical powers." I
can't say anything without one of
them askin' if they can see her pot
of gold.

BARBARA

I think you might have a different
problem with that one.

MELISSA

Barb.

BARBARA

I don't know, Melissa. Sounds to me
like you're kind of... Jealous of
Janine.

MELISSA

Jealous? Of that little shrimp?
Ain't no way. Besides. This is the
first year I haven't been clocked
as a leprechaun for my red hair.
I'm glad the spotlight's off me for
once.

BARBARA

Mmmhmmm.

Melissa notices the drawings on Barbara's desk. There's one
at the top of Barbara being stabbed with a sword by a
leprechaun.

MELISSA

Oh look, Janine even made it into
the psycho kid's drawing.

Barbara shakes her head in disbelief.

BARBARA

Still not sure what to do about him.

MELISSA

Maybe send a note home with his parents saying, 'Hey, your kid would make a great forensic sketch artist, but he's five friggin' years old and shouldn't be so good at drawing mutilated bodies.'

Barbara shrugs in agreement.

INT. MELISSA'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Melissa's class is excitedly talking over one another about Janine's newfound Leprechaunism.

KEVIN

Does she have Santa's phone number?

ALEX

Does she throw up rainbows?

JACKIE

Will she give me presents even though I'm not Irish?

MELISSA

Hello? Can I get everyone's attention?

The students don't listen, and talk even louder.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

Please? For the love of God!

Melissa is pacing angrily.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

(loud and scary)

That's it! You guys are getting on my last freakin' nerves! Enough of this leprechaun hullabaloo alright? They're not even real for Christ's sake.

The students gasp.

DANIEL

Magic isn't real?

PHILLIP
Our childlike wonder is ruined
forever? Because of you?

The students all start to cry.

Melissa looks at the camera with an 'I'm screwed' look.

INT. GYMNASIUM - DAY

The gym is split in half. One side is Gregory with about 20 kids in pinnies. The other side is Jacob and Henry wearing matching 80's workout sweatbands.

Gregory's side is full of laughter.

Gregory runs up to the hoop and makes a slam dunk.

MATTHEW
Whoa Mr. Eddie, that was epic!

Gregory bows.

While Jacob, on the other side is attempting to line dance with two people.

JACOB
This is beginner stuff, Henry.
Focus on my feet when I do it.

Jacob does a jazz square very slowly. Henry is trying to copy it, but messes up.

On Gregory's side, a student shoots a hoop. Everyone cheers.

JACOB (CONT'D)
Wow, I'm so glad we're over here
not getting all gross and sweaty,
aren't you, Henry?

HENRY
I don't know Mr. C, they look like
they're having a lot more fun than
us.

Jacob looks at Henry, who keeps trying to do a jazz square. He kicks a nearby basketball out of frustration.

Jacob sighs.

JACOB
Henry, follow me.

Jacob brings Henry to the other side of the gym.

Gregory and his kids pause their game.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Why don't you go play basketball. I think I've proven I'm not the athlete that Mr. Eddie is.

Gregory looks guiltily at the camera.

HENRY

No, that's okay. I'm not that good at sports, and I don't wanna look dumb. Last time I played basketball, Matthew knocked out three of my teeth.

MATTHEW

And I'd do it again!

Matthew high fives his friends and Gregory settles them down.

Henry and Jacob walk back to their side of the gym.

HENRY

Mr.C, I just wanted to say thanks for teaching me how to square-dance. Sports make me nervous.

JACOB

Though I would argue to say square-dancing *is* a sport, I'm glad I could help out. I don't really like sports either.

JACOB TALKING HEAD.

JACOB (CONT'D)

One thing about me, is I'm *always* gonna look out for the underdog. I wish I had a teacher like me in elementary school. I could've used it.

INT. JANINE'S CLASSROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Janine is at her desk, while a very upset mob of Melissa's students yell and cry at her.

MASON

Why didn't my wish come true?

CAMERON

My mom didn't get Burger King, she
got Wendy's!

The students all argue over each other.

Melissa walks in, looking for her students.

MELISSA

Hey, what the hell is goin on?

JANINE

Your students are all very mad at
me, because their wishes didn't
come true.

(muttering)

Will you help me out, here?

Melissa looks at her students and ponders.

MELISSA

I think you've got this handled.

(to the students)

Kids, I'll be in the room. Come in
whenever you're done.

JANINE

Are you serious? Melissa!

Melissa walks out of the room.

INT. JANINE'S CLASSROOM - A COUPLE OF MINUTES LATER

Janine's phone is ringing off the hook.

JANINE

(on the phone)

To be fair, I didn't think Jackie
would wish for you and your husband
to not get divorced, Mrs. Riley.
I'm wishing you the best, though.
Whatever happened, I'm on your
side. Girl power. Haha.

Janine hangs up and drops her head on her desk. She's fully
panicking.

The kids continue scolding her.

INT. GYMNASIUM - DAY

The students on Gregory's side of the gym are (attempting) to dribble. They're slapping the ball, kicking it, punching it, etc.

GREGORY

Come on guys, it's less of a slap,
more of a drop.

Gregory demonstrates.

STEVEN

Like this, Mr. Eddie?

Steven drops the ball out in front of him.

Gregory looks at the camera and sighs.

Gregory demonstrates again, moving around the gym.

GREGORY

Let the balls guide you.

MATTHEW

Ha! Mr. Eddie said balls.

Gregory rolls his eyes.

GREGORY

There's a rhythm to it. Play some
music in your head, and bounce
along to the beat.

Square-dancing music comes from the other side of the gym.

STEVEN

Can other people hear that?

Everyone looks over to Jacob and Henry, who are dancing a perfectly choreographed dance.

Gregory and his students stand and stare in awe.

Once Henry and Jacob finish, the rest of the class applauds them. They bow.

JACOB

Wow, thanks for the standing
ovation guys.

MATTHEW

We were already standing.

GREGORY
 (to the students)
 Are you guys thinking what I'm
 thinking?

The class nods.

GREGORY (CONT'D)
 Mr. C? Do you think you could...
 Teach us some rhythm?

JACOB
 This is literally the best day of
 my life.

JACOB TALKING HEAD

JACOB (CONT'D)
 (holding a basketball)
 Yeaahhh, I have a complicated
 history with sports. Me and the ol'
 pig skin haven't always gotten
 along. My dad enrolled me in
 basketball when I was a kid and...
 Let's just say he wasn't too happy
 when I would do pirouettes on the
 court, instead of playing defense.

AS WE WERE

Henry and Jacob lead the rest of the class in a square-
 dancing lesson. Henry has gained some confidence, and took
 over in teaching.

Gregory brings basketballs in, teaching the class how to
 bounce along with the rhythm.

JACOB (CONT'D)
 (to Henry)
 You're hogging the spotlight, my
 friend.

INT. BARBARA'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Melissa is pacing back and fourth in front of Barbara's desk.

MELISSA
 I don't know, sometimes when I get
 all riled up, I get like, possessed
 by this old Italian woman. I call
 her Rosa. She swears at kids in
 Italian, and apparently, tells them
 magic isn't real.

Janine walks in.

JANINE

Barbara, I could really use some advice.

Janine notices Melissa is also there asking for advice.

BARBARA

I really should start charging you both.

MELISSA

Hey, Janine the office is currently occupied.

JANINE

Barbara, please. I'm in over my head, here. I don't know what to do. Melissa's kids. They--

MELISSA

She knows. I told her.

BARBARA

I know. She told me.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

Pooooor Janine. If only you had an older, wiser, more beautiful coworker that could've warned you of this possible outcome.

JANINE

Melissa, I'm sorry. What can I say? I love to be loved. It's because I'm a Sagittarius.

MELISSA

And because you have mommy issues.

JANINE

Why are you even here, Melissa? Your students aren't mad at you.

MELISSA

No, but they won't stop talking about you. Yesterday, they were obsessed with you, and today they're still obsessed with you. Just. In a negative way. Either way. I'm sick of hearing your name.

BARBARA

Well, it sounds like you've gotten yourselves into quite the pickle, huh?

MELISSA

Yes. That's correct. Don't know what stating the obvious is gonna do to help us Barbara.

JANINE

I think she's saying we should work together.

MELISSA

Well, you should just say that, then.

JANINE

I appreciate the motherly advice you always bring to the table, Barbara. You know that. I just don't know how us working together is gonna get Jackie's parents back together. Or raise Alex's dog from the dead. Or get Bur-actually? We could probably buy Burger King for Cameron.

BARBARA

Now, wait a second. Does Jackie have a little brother in my class?

MELISSA

Yes, Ben.

BARBARA

Ben's the student who's been drawing those... Concerning pictures of me.

JANINE

I bet there's a connection there. Psychologically.

MELISSA

Did you ever you send a note home with him, Barb?

BARBARA

I did. But they're of the 'liberal' and 'atheist' type. Kinda like Janine.

Janine looks at the camera, confused.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

So they responded simply by saying he's 'expressing himself.' But, I think I'm starting to figure out why his version of 'expressing himself' is so... Disturbing.

JANINE

So, what are you gonna do now?

BARBARA

Well. The best thing to do with children. Talk it through.

JANINE

Hmmm... Talk it through.

MELISSA

And when that doesn't work out, I'll get you that familial background check. ASAP.

JANINE

Melissa. I think I know how to fix our problem.

INT. BARBARA'S CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

Barbara sits next to Ben, who's coloring.

In front of him is a picture of a man and woman stabbing each other.

BARBARA

Uhhh... whatcha drawing, Ben?

BEN

Mommy and daddy.

BARBARA

I thought so.

BEN

They're breaking up 'cause they keep saying they's gonna kill each other. And run each other over. And stab each other in the--

BARBARA

Maybe, the best thing for them right now is some time apart, hm?

Ben nods sadly.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

How about this. What if you draw only happy pictures? That way, it will make you happy!

Ben considers this.

BEN

Can I still put blood in it?

BARBARA

Lets try to avoid blood. For now. What's something that makes you happy, Ben?

BEN

Worms. And slime.

BARBARA

That's... That's lovely.

BARBARA TALKING HEAD

BARBARA (CONT'D)

I should have been a therapist. It's basically the same job I'm doing now, except I'd be paid more.

INT. MELISSA'S CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

Melissa's students sit with their arms crossed, staring angrily at Melissa and Janine, who are at the front of the room.

JANINE

Listen guys. I'm sorry.

JACKIE

Liar!

CAMERON

Where's my Burger King?

JANINE

If you guys would just let me apologize and explain.

ALEX

Explain what? That my dog is actually dead?

SHANE

You're the worst teacher I've never had, Ms. Teagues.

MELISSA

Alright! That's enough. In this classroom, we are kind to one another. We forgive each other. Now will you let the Ms. Teagues finish?

JANINE

Thank you Ms. Schemmenti. Have you guys ever been to the mall at Christmas time, and sat on Santa's lap?

The students nod.

ASHELY

Last time I did that, his lap was wet.

JANINE

Okay. Um. Anyways. You notice how there's always little elves with Santa, helping him out?

The students nod again.

JANINE (CONT'D)

Well, leprechauns have that too. With humans. Like me! You see, I told everyone I was a leprechaun because I wanted to seem magical. And special. But... I think it just caused more harm than good.

MELISSA

And when I heard that Ms. Teagues was a leprechaun, I got kinda jealous. You all thought she was so cool, and I felt inferior. So. I told you all magic wasn't real. If I couldn't be magical, no one could.

Janine looks at Melissa, as if she's about to cry.

Janine mouths "thank you" to Melissa.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

Well? What do you think? Do you forgive us?

JANINE
Do you believe us?

The students stare at them in silence.

JACKIE
Ms. Schementti, can we have snack
time now?

JANINE
Oh. That's it? We're over it?

The kids begin chit-chatting again, like nothing happened.

MELISSA
God I wish my brain worked liked
that. Maybe I'd still be married.

JANINE
That was nice. What you said.

MELISSA
I don't know what you're talking
about.

JANINE
Oh, come on. We totally had one of
those moments where you weren't
talking to me, but you were talking
to me.

MELISSA
Way to go, Janine. You ruined it.

JANINE
What?

MELISSA
It ruins it if you talk about it
afterwards. Now get out of my
classroom. Come on, kid. Scram.

Janine scoffs and walks out.

Melissa smiles at the camera.

MELISSA (CONT'D)
Okay, we can have snack time now.

TAG

INT. GYMNASIUM

Gregory and Jacob are both wearing workout sweatbands. They're passing the basketball to each other.

GREGORY

You forced me to dance. Now I'm teaching you how to play basketball.

Jacob brings the cart of basketballs next to him.

JACOB

Alrighty, then. Let's see what I got.

Jacob throws the first one in. Perfect swish. He grabs a second one and does the same thing. He keeps doing this, getting faster each time.

Gregory gawks at him, then the camera.

Jacob gets through all of the balls, and turns to look at Gregory.

GREGORY

Where the hell did that come from?

JACOB

I never said I wasn't good at basketball, just that I don't like it.