

PERPLEXED

Written by Lisa Di Nuzzo

Episode 101 - "Pilot"

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TEASER

INT. JADE AND ALEX'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

JADE, 24, a perky blonde and ALEX, 25, messy hair, sit across from one another at a retro-style table. Alex grabs Jade's hand. She smiles.

ALEX

You know I love you, right?

JADE

Of course. I love you, too.

Alex reaches behind him. Jade grins and leans forward.

Alex sets his phone on the table. Jade frowns.

ALEX

I'm just going to say it.

JADE

Don't worry. What ever it is, you know the answer will be yes.

ALEX

I think we should break up.

Jade's eyes grow wide.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. JADE AND ALEX'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Jade focuses on the Darth Vader bobble head that stands in the center of the table.

JADE

How are we going to break the news to Muffin?

ALEX

There's nothing to explain to Muffin. I'm not asking to change anything but our title. Muffin won't even know anything is amiss.

Tears stream down Jade's cheeks.

JADE

There's someone else, isn't there?

Alex looks upward, and then back at Jade.

ALEX

There's the idea of something else.

Jade grabs the Darth Vader bobble head, jiggles it in front of her and slams its head across the edge of the table. The head flies off.

INT. JADE AND ALEX'S APARTMENT - DOORWAY - NIGHT

KATHERINE, 24, hair in a ponytail, dressed in tight black clothing, and black, lightweight sparring gloves enters. Jade stands with a Kleenex in her hand. Her face is red and blotchy.

KATHERINE

Where is he? I'll kill him.

Jade and Katherine embrace.

INT. JADE AND ALEX'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Katherine and Jade sit across from one another at the table. The Darth Vader bobble head is in between them; its head taped together. Katherine glances at it.

KATHERINE

What happened?

JADE

I thought he was going to propose.  
I'm so stupid.

KATHERINE

You're not stupid. He's stupid.

Katherine grabs Jade's hand from across the table.

KATHERINE (CONT'D)

When are you moving out?

Jade pulls her hand away and sits upright.

JADE

I'm not. Anyway, I can't just  
abandon Muffin. She's our baby.

Katherine and Jade turn their heads toward the hamster cage  
on the counter. MUFFIN, the hamster, twirls in her wheel.

KATHERINE

I don't think it's possible to just  
be friends with someone you've been  
with for five years.

JADE

Let him think we're just friends. I  
didn't invest five years of my life  
to be set to the side. He will come  
to his senses, or I'm taking Muffin  
and he will never see her again.

Darth Vader's head falls off. Katherine's eyes grow wide.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. JADE AND ALEX'S APARTMENT - BALCONY - DAY

Alex and Jade sit in lawn chairs.

JADE

I don't think my parents are going to understand our arrangement.

ALEX

Then don't tell them.

JADE

Are you telling yours?

ALEX

My parents are more understanding about these things.

JADE

I don't think you should tell yours either. Not right away.

ALEX

Are you sure you're okay with this?

Jade reaches over and tucks Alex's hair behind his ear.

JADE

Of course I am.

INT. KATHERINE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Katherine sits at her desk and types on her computer. Jade paces behind her.

KATHERINE

I still don't think this live-in-friends thing is a good idea. You're not ready.

JADE

I am ready.

Katherine turns her computer toward Jade. Jade squints at the image.

JADE (CONT'D)

Is that a picture of Alex?

She moves closer to the computer.

JADE (CONT'D)

Who is he?

ON KATHERINE'S LAPTOP SCREEN

An image of Alex and JORDON, 30, very pretty for a guy, fills the screen.

BACK TO KATHERINE

KATHERINE

Alex's gay lover, probably. What guy never wants to have sex?

JADE

It's not that he never wanted to have sex.

KATHERINE

How many times did you have sex last year?

Jade ignores her.

ON KATHERINE'S LAPTOP SCREEN

Jade CLICKS on the photo. Jordon's profile pops up. His sexual orientation lists: gay.

BACK TO JADE

JADE

There is no way I am going to be friends with Alex if he is cheating on me with a guy.

KATHERINE

He's not cheating. You're just friends, remember?

Jade looks at Katherine.

KATHERINE (CONT'D)

Plus, if you're really committed to being friends, you're going to have to accept Alex's journey.

JADE

I can't be friends with someone who I can't trust.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. BOPPY'S BURGER SHOP - DAY

Jade and Alex slurp chocolate milkshakes. Jade pulls out her phone and hands it to Alex.

ALEX

What are you doing with a picture of me and my co-worker?

JADE

Alex, are you gay?

Alex smiles.

ALEX

Do you really want the answer?

Jade slurps her milkshake.

JADE

Yes.

EXT. JADE AND ALEX'S APARTMENT - BALCONY - DAY

Jade walks out and turns toward the balcony next door. HENRY, 64, wears a tattered fedora, waters his plants.

JADE

Hey, Henry.

She waves. Henry waves back.

HENRY

Hey, darlin'. How goes it?

JADE

Okay, I guess.

HENRY

What's wrong? Muffin trying to sneak a boy in?

Jade laughs.

JADE

No.

HENRY

Nothing serious, I hope?

JADE

What would you do if one day the person you love suddenly changed completely?

HENRY

When you love someone, you accept them for who they are and who they will become. If you can't, you move on.

INT. JADE AND ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jade stands in front of the television. Alex looks at her from the couch.

JADE

I'm ready for the answer.

ALEX

The answer to what?

JADE

Are you gay?

ALEX

I'm trying to figure that out.

Jade shakes her head.

JADE

Did you cheat on me with him?

Alex sits up.

ALEX

I never cheated on you. Besides, Jordan's boyfriend took that picture.

Jade sits down next to Alex.

JADE

I'll be your friend no matter what. Gay or straight, I accept you.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Jade, Alex and Jordon sit at a bar table in silence. Jade twirls her drink.

JADE  
(to Jordon)  
So, where's your boyfriend?

Jordon perks up.

JORDON  
We actually broke up last week.  
Good riddance.

He scoots his chair closer to Alex and smiles. Jade whips her head toward Alex. Alex turns toward Jade with wide eyes then looks at Jordon and forces an awkward smile.

END OF EPISODE