“Social Psychology”
Episode #104

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COMMUNITY

EPISODE #104

CAST LIST

JEFF..................................................................................................................JOEL MCHALE
PIERCE............................................................................................................CHEVY CHASE
BRITTA.............................................................................................................GILLIAN JACOBS
SHIRLEY.................................................................YVETTE NICOLE BROWN
ABED..............................................................................................................DANNY PUDI
ANNIE..............................................................................................................ALISON BRIE
TROY................................................................................................................DONALD GLOVER
SEÑOR CHANG..............................................................................................KEN JEONG
PROFESSOR DUNCAN.................................................................JOHN OLIVER
VAUGHN.........................................................................................................ERIC CHRISTIAN OLSEN
RESEARCH ASSISTANT #1.................................................................TBD
STONER FRIEND.......................................................................................MATT JONES
COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

1  INT. SPANISH CLASSROOM - MORNING (DAY 1)

SR. CHANG is at the white board, finishing up a Spanish lesson.

SR. CHANG
...*hablamos hablar.* Okay, before we wrap up, I’d like to thank you for filling out your anonymous evaluation cards. I found your suggestions to be largely constructive and flattering. But there was one of you whose evaluation was so harsh, I took the time to analyze the person’s handwriting against past exams. *(leaning into Annie)* And I noticed that this coward dots her I’s with hearts. Who’s “erratic and unstable” now, princess *gringo*?! *(then, sweet)*

Okay, see you tomorrow.

Everyone in our STUDY GROUP exits the classroom with the rest of the students.

2  INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

JEFF and SHIRLEY walk in the same direction down the hall.

SHIRLEY
Nice day out today, isn’t it?

JEFF *(like he forgot something)*
Yeah. Oh. Damn.

Jeff starts back towards the classroom as Shirley walks off. He runs into BRITTA.

BRITTA
Forget something?

JEFF
Yeah, I forgot to stagger the timing of my exit with Shirley’s. *(MORE)*
JEFF (CONT'D)
We both have an eleven o’clock all the way across campus and I can’t go that kind of distance with “Ooh, that’s nice.”

BRITTA
That’s mean.

JEFF
No...
(doing Shirley)
That’s not nice.
EXT. QUAD - SECONDS LATER

Jeff and Britta walk together, out of the school building and onto the quad.

BRITTA
I find Shirley very easy to talk to. And aren’t you supposed to have, like, an olympic gold medal in jibber jabber?

JEFF
Yeah, but I’m a sprinter, I’m at my best during high speed bursts of wit. You lock me into Shirley’s stride for a marathon banter about her brownies? The awkward silence is going to set in before we pass the stoner tree.

We see a tree where stoners are hanging out. VAUGHN, a hot, laid-back guy, plays hacky sack with no socks on and his shirt in his back pocket.

VAUGHN
Hey, Britta. Hi. ‘Sup?

BRITTA
Hey, Vaughn. How’s it going?

VAUGHN
No worries.

JEFF
(to Britta)
Interesting. Cause I might worry if I played hacky sack a decade too late.

BRITTA
My class is this way.

JEFF
Alright, but I just wanted to point out that we easily walked more than a hundred yards without a single awkward pause, and that’s the mark of a true friend. So, nice walking with you, friend.
BRITTA

(sincere)
I’m glad you’re not hitting on me anymore.

JEFF
...and there is the awkward pause.

FADE OUT.

END OF COLD OPEN
FADE IN:

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

ANNIE runs up to PROFESSOR DUNCAN who is in line to pay.

ANNIE
Professor Duncan. Annie Edison, I’m in your 101 lecture, I’ve heard about your special psych lab --

PROF. DUNCAN
Ah. The Duncan Principle.

ANNIE
Yes, and I know it’s limited to second year students, but I had a 4.0 at Riverside High, and I’m not looking down on this school at all, but I’m only here because of a brief addiction to pills that I was told would help me focus but they actually made me lose my scholarship and virginity. If I could take your lab early, it would be a real feather in my transcript.

PROF. DUNCAN
I’ve been in this situation many times, so I’m going to be up front. I’m not allowed to date students. Even though you are an eight, a British ten. If, in spite of that, you’re still interested, you may join the lab.

Annie jumps.

PROF. DUNCAN (CONT’D)
You need to bring two human subjects. It also wouldn’t hurt your chances if you could lend me a fiver.

(while she gets one)
I seem to have left my purse in my duffle, and my duffle in the boot of my lorry.

Annie hands him five dollars.
Brilliant. See you tomorrow, research assistant.

Annie squeals in something akin to ecstasy and hurries off.
Jeff, ABED, PIERCE, Shirley, and TROY at a table near the coffee stand. Jeff looks on as Britta stands in the coffee line talking with Vaughn. Pierce makes a meal out of opening his express package.

PIERCE
What could this express package be?
Someone needed to get me something fast.

SHIRLEY
You brought your mail to campus?

PIERCE
Didn’t have time to open it at home.

JEFF
Plus, if you opened it at home, we wouldn’t be able to see whatever it is you want us to see.

PIERCE
(opening package)
Oh, yes. My Ear-Noculars.

JEFF
Perfect.

TROY
What is that? It looks like your Bluetooth thingie.

Pierce turns his head. He has a Bluetooth headset in one ear.

PIERCE
No no no. This is my cell phone headset. This is Ear-Noculars. It’s for spies and what have you. It gives you sonic hearing.

ABED
All hearing is sonic.

PIERCE
(not hearing)
What’s that?

JEFF
You might want to take that ear thing for a spin.

Pierce looks through the Ear-Noculars literature.
PIERC
This is great. I’ll be able to
hear a violin from the balcony or
the doorbell ring when I’m out
gardening.

JEFF
So, it’s a hearing aid.

PIERC
(snapping)
No!
(composes himself)
A hearing aid is for people who
can’t hear. Ear-Noculars are for
people who can’t hear enough.

TROY
(reading box)
Eyes for your ears. That’s freaky.

Annie approaches.

ANNIE
So who wants to be in a psych
experiment?

Pierce has his Ear-Noculars on, unaware of Annie.

PIERC
Guys, guys,...
(conspiratorial)
Annie’s talking... about some kind
of experiment.

JEFF
She’s behind you.
(to Annie)
Not interested.

ANNIE
Come on, this is huge for me. I’d
be the first Freshman to sit in on
Professor Duncan’s experiment.

JEFF
Is it the one where he proves that
if you drink enough scotch, you
forget you’re not driving in
England?
ANNIE
No, Jeff. It’s supposed to be mind-blowing. Pleeeeeease? You get paid.

TROY
Do they do stuff to your butt?

ANNIE
Uh... No.

TROY
Well, I’ll do it anyway.

Everyone but Annie looks at Troy, who minds his lunch, oblivious.
ANNIE
Yay! How about you, Abed? It’s tomorrow.

ABED
Oof. Tomorrow? They’re showing all four Indiana Jones’s at The Vista. I was really looking forward to the first three. I bought a whip.

She stops walking and turns to face him, with puppy dog eyes.

ANNIE
This is really important to me, Abed. Could you please go as my friend. My really good friend?

ABED
Wow, I didn’t realize we were really good friends. I figured we were more like Chandler and Phoebe. They never really had stories together. Sure, I’ll do it, Chandler.

ANNIE
(hugging Abed)
Oh, thank you, Abed.

SHIRLEY
That’s nice.

Off Shirley’s “that’s nice,” Jeff looks for Britta and notices she’s still talking with Vaughn.

JEFF
(getting up)
I better save Britta from that dude.

SHIRLEY
Yeah, she looks like she’s in trouble. I hope he doesn’t “handsome” her to death.

Shirley watches Jeff approach Britta and Vaughn.

JEFF
Hey.

VAUGHN
Hi, what’s up, hey. I’m Vaughn.
Man, those shoes look comfortable.
JEFF
Thanks. You in line?

VAUGHN
Nah, just chillin. Hey, you’re not gonna order a coffee are you?

JEFF
No, I was just seeing if Britta...

VAUGHN
Hey, no judgement at all, brah. I used to do coffee, but then I switched to green tea and it’s like filled with antioxidants and stuff. It’s pretty tight.

JEFF
(to Britta)
Tight, yes. I’ve heard that about green tea.

Britta doesn’t look at Jeff. She smiles at Vaughn.

BRITTA
I like green tea. I should make the change.

Back at the table, Pierce observes Britta and speaks studiously while touching his bionic ear.

PIERCE
Britta’s making the change to green tea.

INT. EXPERIMENT ROOM - NEXT MORNING (DAY 2)

Prof. Duncan (now wearing a lab coat) addresses several psych student assistants, including Annie.

PROF. DUNCAN
Welcome, research assistants.

Annie claps.

ANGLE ON the monitor. From a hidden camera perspective, we see Abed, Troy, and other students sitting in a waiting room.
If you turn your attention to the monitor, you will see our subjects are waiting for the experiment to begin, but... it’s actually happening right now.

The students GASP, they are into it.

You’re welcome.
Prof. Duncan winks. Annie titters excitedly.

**PROF. DUNCAN (CONT’D)**
The waiting *is* the experiment. The Duncan Principle is simple: The more control lost by - actually, I should take this down, too. *(takes his own notes)*

*The more control lost by the ego,*

*the more gained by the id,*

*resulting in a surprisingly predictable emotional eruption or breaking point,*

*(southern accent)*

*known to ma and pa as a “tantrum.”*

*(waits for chuckle, gets it)*

Annie, please let our subjects know that the experiment will start in five minutes.

A smiling Annie crosses to the door.

**PROF. DUNCAN (CONT’D)**
(whispering to everyone)
But it’s never going to start.

Educated titters. Annie waves her hand over her face, going from a smile to a serious face. She opens the door into the waiting room.

**INT. WAITING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

**ANNIE**

Sr. Chang is seated in the room as well.

**SR. CHANG**
Yeah, what, you don’t think a community college Spanish teacher could use the eighty bucks?

**ANNIE**
Okay. Well, we are running just a little bit behind, so it’s going to be five --
SR. CHANG
No! Unacceptable! You say something is going to start at nine, it starts at nine! Don’t waste mi tiempo!

Sr. Chang kicks over a chair and storms out.

INT. EXPERIMENT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

PROF. DUNCAN
And we’re off.

The students murmur in fascination.

EXT. QUAD - LATER

Jeff exits the school building with Shirley and some other students. He bends down to tie his shoe, hoping Shirley will keep walking. When he stands, she is right there.

SHIRLEY
Did you know we walk the same way after class? I’m sure you didn’t or else we would’ve been walking together, unless you’re a jerk, just kidding.

JEFF
Ha. Let’s do it.

Jeff starts walking with her.

SHIRLEY
Oh hold on now, going a little too fast for these dogs.

The walk is even slower. Long, awkward silence. They both try to break it.

JEFF (CONT’D) SHIRLEY
You have a kid, right? How do you like Greendale?

SHIRLEY (CONT’D)
What’s that?

JEFF
Nothing.

Shirley exhales. This is painful for her too. Long silence.
SHIRLEY
Pierce is not exactly right in his head, is he?

Jeff smiles. This perks him up.

JEFF
Oh, I don’t know, he seems like a pretty normal guy, oh wait, he’s NUTS.

Shirley giggles.

SHIRLEY
You better be careful, he might be listening with his Inspector Gadget hearing aid. You know that show?

JEFF
I do know that show.

SHIRLEY
Oh, and about that Hackey Sack guy? Always around, flirting with Britta. It’s embarrassing.

JEFF
(too loud)
I know! He’s the worst!

SHIRLEY
I mean, what is with that hair?

JEFF
It’s perpetually moist. And the incessant evangelizing of green tea. No offense, but if I want medical advice, I’ll get it from someone wearing socks.

Shirley loves that one. They continue gabbing.

INT. EXPERIMENT ROOM - LATER

Prof. Duncan stands in front of the monitor. He checks his watch.

PROF. DUNCAN
Okay, we’re three hours in, let’s review what we’ve seen. Pay close attention to every subject’s breaking point.
ANGLE ON the monitor: Prof. Duncan fast forwards the tape. We start with a room full of subjects. Over time, we see Annie pop in and out of the room. One after another, frustrated subjects get up and leave. (The research assistants take notes.)

PROF. DUNCAN (CONT’D)
(commenting on what he sees)
Look at this one. He’s a stomper... This one’s a screamer...
We got a bulemic... Look at the little one chase the big one, it’s like Benny Hill... Forer!... Ooh, he just hit that girl...

On the tape, all that remain now are Abed and Troy. Abed remains motionless while Troy slowly melts down and exits. Abed is the only one left. He sits patiently, hands folded in his lap. Prof. Duncan leans closer to the screen.

PROF. DUNCAN (CONT’D)
Ah, I’ve seen this before. The longer they wait, the harder they break. Buckle up, students.
(then, noticing)
Does he have a whip?

EXT. QUAD - LATER

Shirley and Jeff sit on the bench, laughing.

SHIRLEY
Oh, and have you seen how often Hackey Sack takes his shirt off? He’d play shirts and skins in a game of checkers.
JEFF
I am so glad to be able to talk about that guy. I wanted to say something to Britta but we’re supposed to be friends now and she’d think I was jealous.

SHIRLEY
I don’t see why you and Britta aren’t together. Two cute white people, going to school together, just seems right.

JEFF
Shirley, we’re not pandas in a zoo.

SHIRLEY
(seeing something)
Oh dear.

Jeff looks. Britta and Vaughn make out on the quad.

JEFF
That is not what I want to see.

Britta looks up, sees Jeff watching her.

SHIRLEY
And there goes the shirt.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. STUDENT LOUNGE - LATER

Britta approaches Jeff at a table.

BRITTA
Heeey.

JEFF
Hi, there. Want me to check you * for grass stains?

BRITTA *
That was... embarrassing.

JEFF *
Oh, whatever. Seize the day, man, * life is short. Get up on that. *
You know? All aboard the * dreamboat.

BRITTA *
I wasn’t sure when or how to bring * up that I was hanging out with
Vaughn. Figured you’d... make fun of him. And me.

JEFF *
First of all, friends don’t make * fun of each other, and secondly, (mustering) *
Vaughn seems cool.

Britta is impressed with Jeff. *

BRITTA *
You guys should hang out. Well, *
I gotta go. That was tacky out * there, you’ll never see it again.

JEFF *
No worries.
Pierce talks to Shirley as they exit the school building from before. He wears his Ear-Noculars and Bluetooth.

PIERCe
This thing is amazing. I could finally hear Mr. Chang from the back of the room. Too bad they don't make one of these for accents. What's that? What do you mean you got a hold of some "sweet weed"?

SHIRLEY
Doesn't it get confusing with the phone in one ear and that thing in the other?

PIERCe
It's called living in the modern world.

His cell phone RINGS in his other ear. It's very loud for Pierce and startles him.

PIERCe (CONT'D)

As Pierce walks off contorting in confusion, Jeff hurries up to Shirley.

JEFF
Shirley! Did you notice Sr. Chang's socks today? Tiny bull fighters.

SHIRLEY
I can top that. Did you see Hacky Sack wears an anklet?

Jeff doesn't react.

SHIRLEY (CONT'D)
Since when won't you talk about Vaughn? No fun.
JEFF
I’m trying to be a good friend to Britta. She thought I’d make fun of him and I want to be unpredictable. I’m going to show her I’m not the jerk she thinks I am and friend the hell out of that green tea drinking drum circler.

SHIRLEY
Okay, but tell me you’ve noticed how small his nipples are.
JEFF
Not engaging.

SHIRLEY
What? It’s not gossip if it’s fact. My kids have had hamsters with bigger nips.

INT. EXPERIMENT ROOM/WAITING ROOM - LATER

The room is a complete mess, littered with take-out food containers, crumpled pieces of paper and empty coffee cups. Prof. Duncan, Annie and the other research assistants are bleary eyed, but they continue to watch the monitor. On the monitor, Abed happily sits in the same position.

PROF. DUNCAN
Is it on pause?

ANNIE
No, that’s just him.

Annie opens the door to the waiting room.

ANNIE (CONT’D)
Sorry you’ve been waiting...
(checks her watch, sighs)
twenty-six hours. It will be...
five more minutes.

ABED
Okie doke.

Annie closes the door and goes back to the experiment room. Prof. Duncan tugs at his hair.

PROF. DUNCAN
Why won’t he leave!?

RESEARCH ASSISTANT #1
Professor, I have other classes I have to--

PROF. DUNCAN

Research Assistant #1 leaves. Prof. Duncan turns to the monitor.
PROF. DUNCAN (CONT’D)
He’s ruining my study! He’s warping the Duncan Principle. Damn you! Damn you, you outlying piece of datum!
(punches monitor)
Ow!
(to Annie)
YOU! This is all your fault!

ANNIE
But you told me to bring subjects.

PROF. DUNCAN
Subjects! Not Rain Man! I should have never let you in this lab, little Miss know-it-all, Annie Fanny Panties in a bunch!

ANNIE
Oh, that’s sooo hilaarious! Did you think of that the last time you skipped a trip to the dentist?

PROF. DUNCAN
Let me answer that question with another question...
(makes raspberry noises)

Prof. Duncan starts yelling and stomping his feet in complete exasperation. The other research assistants take notes on his behavior. He notices.

PROF. DUNCAN (CONT’D)
What are you doing?! Stop writing!

He grabs one of their composition notebooks and throws it at them. Terrified, the assistants scramble to the door.

PROF. DUNCAN (CONT’D)
Out! All of you! You’re all a bunch of dorks!
(points at Annie)
You destroyed the Duncan Principle!
Prof. Duncan exits, slamming the door behind him. Annie, fuming, sits alone in the room. After a beat, she gets up and opens the door to the waiting room where Abed is waiting patiently.

ANNIE
Go home!

She slams the door shut. WE STAY ON Abed, alone in the room.

ABED
Cool.

He gets up to go.

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER

Jeff sits with Britta and Vaughn.

JEFF
So Britta said you did a lot of community service?

VAUGHN
Ultimate Frisbee at the Senior’s Center. It’s amazing.

JEFF
And what makes frisbee ultimate?

VAUGHN
Aw, man, if I had a nickel for every time I wished someone asked me that.
Britta is happy they are getting along.

BRITTA
I’m gonna get dessert. Want anything?

VAUGHN
Uh, carrots?

JEFF
I’m good.

Britta exits. Shirley sees Jeff and Vaughn sitting together. She makes eye contact with Jeff and gives him a shit-eating grin and saunters over.

SHIRLEY
Hey, you two.
(to Vaughn)
Well that’s a cool shirt.

VAUGHN
Thanks.

Jeff looks at Shirley like “what are you up to?”

SHIRLEY
Where’s it from?

VAUGHN
Uh? Let me see.

He takes his shirt off. Shirley, behind Vaughn’s back, smiles big at Jeff.

VAUGHN (CONT’D)
Hanes. Classic.

SHIRLEY
That’s nice.

Vaughn turns back to Jeff, still with his shirt off. While Vaughn talks to Jeff about volunteering, Shirley motions for Jeff to check out the nipples. So small. Where are they? Jeff tries not to laugh.

VAUGHN
You know, people underestimate the elderly, but you should see these guys out there throwing the bee, loving life. It’s inspiring.

JEFF
I’ll think about it.
VAUGHN
No worries. Better check on Brits.

Vaughn exits. Shirley snickers while Jeff tries to suppress a laugh.

JEFF
You are the devil.

Pierce and Troy walk up.

PIERCE
Look what we’ve got here, Troy? A good old-fashioned clique.

JEFF
We’re not a clique.

PIERCE
I’m not naive. At Hawthorne Wipes, my corporate board was torn asunder by backstabbing and factionalism. I’ve also seen “Mean Girls.”

(then)

TROY
I haven’t made a call on that yet.

PIERCE
We work so well as a group. Me, Annie, Brittles, the Arab boy,... I just want you to think about that before you throw it all away for a sack of giggles.

Pierce strides off, letting his words sink in.

INT. STUDENT LOUNGE - LATER

Britta and Jeff hang out.
BRITTA
You like Vaughn, right? *

JEFF
He’s very cute. He’s got... * shoulders. *

BRITTA
I’m worried that he’s thinking more intensely about this thing than me. He says stuff, you know, after...

JEFF
After... school?

BRITTA
(means sex) After.

JEFF
(disgusted) You had sex with him? (forcing enthusiasm) What was it like? *

BRITTA
What? Forget that. *(flustered) The problem now is he’s calling me babe and trying to hold my hand, it’s getting relationship-y. And he gave me, ugh, I can’t.

JEFF
What?

BRITTA
You can’t tell anyone about this.

Britta hands over a piece of paper. Jeff looks at it. Remains stone faced.

JEFF
It’s a poem.

BRITTA
How do I respond to something like that? “Thank you”? *

Jeff holds gold.
JEFF
That’s a difficult question. Which
I will answer, - oh, someone’s
texting me.

Jeff pulls his phone out. He holds it up in front of his face, between it and the poem. He pretends to study and operate the phone while adjusting the angle of the phone and the paper.

JEFF (CONT’D)
(pretending to read)
Just have to read this text,
aaaaand -

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. QUAD - LATER

Jeff is holding a printout of a photo he took of the poem. He reads it to Shirley.
JEFF
(reading)
Did you ever notice where the ocean meets the sky, did ya? It’s the same wizard blue that I see in your eye, Brit-ta.

SHIRLEY
(giggling)
Oh no, no, no. Wizard blue?

JEFF
Yes, yes, yes.

SHIRLEY
Oh, thank you. That has brightened my day. I’m so glad we can rip on that dude again.

JEFF
I’m trying to be a good friend to Britta, but I mean, the guy wrote a poem, right? Look. That’s the stain of a tear drop over the word, “rad.”

Jeff and Shirley snicker. ANGLE ON Pierce, somewhere else on the quad, his Ear-Noculars pointed in Jeff and Shirley’s direction. He clearly doesn’t like what he hears.

INT. STUDY ROOM - LATER
Abed and Troy are there. An exhausted Annie enters.

TROY
Hey, sorry for bailing on your psych experiment yesterday.

ANNIE
(snapping)
That was the experiment, Troy. We were testing how long people would wait in the room.

This wrinkles Troy’s brain.

TROY
Whoa.
ABED
(understands; unphased)
Oh, gotcha.

ANNIE
“Gotcha”?! That’s all you have to say? You sat in a room for twenty-six straight hours. No food, no water. Didn’t that bother you?

ABED
(calm)
Yes. I was livid.

ANNIE
Then why didn’t you leave?!

ABED
Because you asked me to stay and you said we were friends.

Annie doesn’t know what to say. She sits down, ashamed.

TROY
Aw, man...
(choking up)
That’s really beautiful.
(then)
Wait. Is this still part of the experiment?

Jeff and Shirley enter, giggling and gabbing.

JEFF
...no, no. He’s more like a puppy with a fish mouth.

SHIRLEY
Right, right, right. Like this...

Shirley does a Vaughn face. Jeff laughs. Pierce opens the door to the study room and strides in.

PIERCE
That’s right. Laugh it up. You guys want to know what they’re doing right now? Making fun of all of us. I heard you with my own Ear... Noculars.
JEFF
Pierce, we--

PIERCEReading
Calling me “Hacky Sack,” ripping on my six pack abs and my moist hair. And apparently someone got a hold of my poem. And that face she was just making?...
(imitates Shirley’s “fish” face)
That was obviously Annie.

TROY
Okay, this is definitely part of the experiment.

SHIRLEY
Pierce, we weren’t making fun of you.

JEFF
We were talking about Britta’s boyfriend, Vaughn.

PIERCEReading
(on a dime)
Oh, okay. Good.
(sits down; rubs hands together)
But if we’re gonna do something, let’s do it as a team. I’ll get the ball rolling. Maybe he has a tiny penis.

TROY
Who is this guy?

SHIRLEY
Oh, you all have to see him. Everything’s, “no worries, no worries.” And he always has to say three greetings in a row. And show them the poem.

Shirley takes Vaughn’s poem print out from Jeff and hands it over.

JEFF
Oh, maybe don’t show that. I don’t think we should--

BRITTA (O.S.)
I should be done in an hour.
Shirley hears Britta and hides the poem printout under a bag. * Britta and Vaughn are now standing in the entry way.

VAUGHN
No worries.

TROY
He just said it!

BRITTA
Hey guys, you’ve met Vaughn, right?

VAUGHN
Hey. What’s up. Hi.

Shirley holds up three fingers. The group tries not to laugh but can’t hold it in.

PIERCE
(whispering too loud)
He’s a fool.

VAUGHN
Whoa, this group’s got a case of the giggles. Tight.

Vaughn sits down at the table, moving the bag out of his way. His poem is revealed.

VAUGHN (CONT’D)
Is that?
(to Britta)
You showed them my poem? *

BRITTA
No.

PIERCE
(laughing; hands poem to Vaughn)
Read it.

VAUGHN
You guys are laughing at me, aren’t you? That’s uh, wow.
(to Britta)
I thought you were cooler than this.

Vaughn leaves. Britta is pissed.

BRITTA
(to Jeff)
I can’t believe you.
SHIRLEY
Honestly Jeff, how dare you?

Jeff shoots Shirley a look. Britta shakes her head at Jeff and goes after Vaughn.

PIERCE
(with Ear-noculars)
He’s crying. And now he’s barking.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. QUAD - LATER

An angry Jeff walks across the quad. Shirley catches up with him.

SHIRLEY

Jeff, wait! I’m sorry I sold you out.

JEFF

Britta’s never going to forgive me. I can’t believe I showed you that poem - good lord, when did my life become an episode of Degrassi High?

SHIRLEY

(indicates nearby bench)
Can we talk?

Jeff sighs and sits with Shirley.

SHIRLEY (CONT’D)

Jeff. I have a gossip problem.

JEFF

I’m not a real supporter of this word but... duh.

SHIRLEY

I stir the pot, Jeff. I’m a pot stirrer. This isn’t the only study group I’ve had this year. See those ladies over there?

ANGLE ON a group of African American women hanging out together. One of them gives Shirley a dirty look.

SHIRLEY (CONT’D)

I was in that group until they kicked me out. They call me “Tattle-ina.”

(then)

It’s a bumblebee nickname. It’s cute but it stings.

Jeff looks over at Shirley’s former study group.
Look how big that woman’s earrings are. It’s like little dogs should be jumping through ‘em.

Shirley puts her fist to her mouth, using every bit of strength not to gossip.

Mmmmmmmmm.
(determined; re: Jeff and her)
This is never going to work. It’s got to end.

Shirley. Don’t do this. We can still hang out. We just won’t bag on people.

Come on, Jeff. What are we gonna talk about? My kids? Your old doctor career?

I was a lawyer.

See? I’m already bored.

Well, we’ll always have “tiny nipples.”

Shirley smiles. Jeff starts off.

Jeff! Wait!

Jeff stops and turns.

I know I shouldn’t, but just one last gossip. Britta told me she had a sex dream about you. You still have a chance.

Details.
SHIRLEY

Mmmrunn!

Shirley puts a fist to her mouth and runs away as Jeff stands there pensively.
Annie approaches Abed who eats at a table. She holds a gift.

ANNIE
Abed, here. I wanted to say sorry for yelling at you. You were being a good friend and I was really selfish.

He looks in the gift bag.

ABED
Indiana Jones, cool.

ANNIE
I just got you the first three because...

ABED
(touched)
The fourth one blows.

They share a smile.

ABED (CONT’D)
We’re cool.

Professor Duncan approaches.

DUNCAN
Oh Annie, there you are. You know, after I went home and drank and slept and drank some more, I realized it was I who had reached a breaking point. I had been the subject of my own study. And I LOVED it. Not only was the Duncan Principle upheld, I now have even more reason to study it. We’re running some new trials tonight if you’d like to assist.

Annie looks at Abed then at the Professor.

ANNIE
Actually, Professor, I think I’m watching movies tonight, with a friend.

Annie and Abed walk away. Duncan is at a loss.

Jeff walks by, towards Britta in the student lounge.
BRITTA
Don’t want to talk to you.

JEFF
I know, I’m sorry. Really, really sorry. And I can go talk to Vaughn if you want me --

BRITTA
Vaughn broke up with me.

JEFF
(happy)
Oh.
(sympathetic)
Oh.

BRITTA
You broke my trust. You suck.

JEFF
I’m sorry. I was in a tough position, I needed to vent, so I showed Shirley the poem. I couldn’t handle being just one of the girls.

BRITTA
But I liked you as one of the girls. What do you want to be?

JEFF
I don’t know, is there a spot on the friendship spectrum between total stranger and having to hear about the guys you date? Ideally, one notch underneath driving you to the airport and painting your kitchen?

BRITTA
I think we can work something out.

JEFF
Great.
Britta gets up to leave.

JEFF (CONT’D)
And if I’m occasionally naked in your dreams, I won’t complain.

BRITTA
Shirley.

JEFF
She has a real problem. She stirs the pot. She’s a pot stirrer.

EXT. QUAD - DAY

A down Vaughn approaches the stoner tree. His STONER FRIEND kicks him the hackey sack. Vaughn misses it.

VAUGHN
Sorry ‘bout that.

STONER FRIEND
Hey, no worries.

Vaughn looks his friends in the eyes, and gives them this warning...

VAUGHN
Some worries. Some worries.

His friends seem dismayed to hear this is possible. The world is changing again.

EXT. QUAD - CONTINUOUS

Jeff walks alone, sad. A student in a weird outfit walks by.

JEFF
Shirley would say something funny about that.

Jeff looks up and sees Shirley walking toward him. He smiles, but then sees she’s walking with Britta.

SHIRLEY
Well you know...
(inaudible gossip)...
Jeff. Shhh.

They pass him and laugh.

JEFF
Oh no.
Jeff runs over to Pierce.

JEFF (CONT’D)
Where’s your Ear-thing?

PIERCE
Got rid of it. Jeff, there are certain things man is not meant to hear. We were designed, by whatever entity you choose, to hear what’s in this range...
(motions around him)
And this range alone. Because, you know who’s talking to us in this range? The people we love.

Pierce walks away, leaving Jeff to ponder this.

JEFF
He heard us call him Inspector Gadget.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW