

SCHMIGADOON: EPISODE 101 "SCHMIGADOON!"

Written by

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TITLE CARD: "OVERTURE"

EXT. NEW YORK - NIGHT

MODERN MUSIC plays over shots of the city at night. It is busy and crowded and dirty and cold. [NOTE: the filming style pre-Schmigadoon should be ultra-realistic, handheld, etc.]

EXT. NEW YORK PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL - NIGHT

The city's biggest hospital.

INT. DELIVERY ROOM - SAME

A WOMAN sweats and gasps as she strains to give birth. Standing between her legs is her ob/gyn, DR. MELISSA KLIPPEL, intensely yelling "PUSH! PUSH!" The woman's HUSBAND and a NURSE are also there, everyone helping. The scene is kinetic and emotional. Melissa is deep in it.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - SAME

In stark contrast a MAN under anesthesia lies on a surgical table as his emotionless orthopedic surgeon, DR. JOSH SKINNER, calmly operates on his knee. An attentive NURSE assists. The scene is calm and sterile.

INT. DELIVERY ROOM - SAME

The action in the delivery room builds to a climax as Melissa delivers the baby. She holds it up and the new dad bursts into tears. Melissa bursts into tears. Everybody bursts into tears. Except the mom, who just gives an exhausted thumb's up.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - SAME

Josh stoically sews up his patient.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING AREA - NIGHT

A drained Melissa stands in front of a SNACK VENDING MACHINE in a deserted hospital corridor. She puts in money and selects a Snickers bar. Nothing happens. She selects it again. Nothing. She pushes the coin return button. Nothing.

Josh stands behind her. He motions for her to give the machine a kick in a certain spot. She makes a face--no way. He tells her to do it. She looks to see if anyone's watching, then gives the machine a kick in the spot.

Suddenly EVERY SNACK drops down at the same time. It's unbelievable. Melissa stares in open-mouthed shock/delight, then turns to Josh. Their eyes lock.

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

VARIOUS CANDY hits the floor as Melissa and Josh passionately kiss, all over each other as they shed clothing and flop down on the bed.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING AREA - NIGHT

Melissa stands waiting at the vending machine. Josh shows up. Their eyes meet.

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Again Melissa and Josh make out and flop down on the bed.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING AREA - NIGHT

Melissa and Josh both arrive at the vending machine, moving at a rapid pace. Their eyes meet.

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

They make out and flop on the bed again.

INT. MELISSA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Josh plays Settlers of Catan for the first time with Melissa and two of her friends. He makes a joke and everyone laughs.

Melissa smiles. This means a lot.

INT. JOSH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Melissa enters Josh's apartment for the first time. Lots of BASKETBALL MEMORABILIA on display and a FOOSBALL TABLE. A FAMILY PHOTO of Josh and his two older brothers and his dad. Josh's German Shepherd BARKLEY rushes over to Melissa, jumps up on her, licking her face as she pets him. It's love.

Josh watches. This means a lot.

INT. MELISSA'S FACEBOOK PAGE - DAY

On Melissa's Facebook page we see that she and Josh are now in a relationship. Lots of her friends are liking/loving this.

INT. JOSH'S FACEBOOK PAGE - DAY

The same announcement is also on Josh's page, since he was tagged by Melissa. It's the only thing posted besides his profile picture, which he added twelve years ago and is a blurry photo of him in med school.

INT. MELISSA'S INSTAGRAM - DAY

We see a series of pictures of Josh and Melissa together on Melissa's Instagram: at a restaurant, in Central Park, at a Knicks game, at a Women's March downtown, celebrating Melissa's birthday, celebrating Christmas, celebrating Josh's birthday, etc.

INT. JOSH'S APARTMENT - DAY

Josh helps Melissa move into his apartment. They struggle to carry her PELOTON BIKE in. It competes with the foosball table.

INT. THEIR APARTMENT - NIGHT

Moved in, they share a glass of wine together and kiss. Barkley joins in, licking them both.

INT. THEIR APARTMENT - DAY

Melissa shows Josh how to properly pack the dishwasher.

INT. THEIR APARTMENT - NIGHT

Josh and Melissa sit on the couch watching a basketball game together. Barkley is curled up in his bed next to the couch.

INT. THEIR APARTMENT - DAY

Melissa opens up the dishwasher to find the dishes are placed in complete disarray. Reaches in and pulls out a SLICE OF PIZZA. Frowns. Then takes a bite of the pizza.

INT. THEIR APARTMENT - NIGHT

Melissa comes home to find Josh tending to Barkley, who's sick in his bed. Josh looks worried.

INT. THEIR APARTMENT - NIGHT

Josh sits on the couch watching TV, zombie-like. Barkley's bed is empty. Melissa sits next to him. Puts her arm around him and gives him a kiss. Trying to help.

INT. THEIR APARTMENT - DAY

An exhausted Melissa returns from her shift at the hospital just as Josh heads out. They barely have time to acknowledge each other.

INT. BOOK STORE - DAY

Melissa stands across from the "Self-Help" shelf at a book store. Sees 10 Steps to a Great Relationship. 14 Steps to a Better Relationship. Then 27 Steps to a Perfect Relationship. Grabs the last one.

INT. SPORTS BAR - NIGHT

Josh is out watching a game with the buddies. He's missing a lot of texts from Melissa.

INT. HOSPITAL ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Melissa scrolls through her old Instagram photos and spies a picture of herself with her old boyfriend. She clicks through to his profile to see what he's up to.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Josh talks with a group of INTERNS who hang on his every word. He tells a joke and a PRETTY INTERN laughs. Josh notices.

INT. BOOK STORE - NIGHT

Melissa looks for books as she watches an OLDER COUPLE walking through the store. The man reaches out and holds his wife's hand. Melissa gets a faraway look.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

As Josh waits in line he sees a YOUNG COUPLE in front of him being really affectionate. He grabs several cookies.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING AREA - NIGHT

Melissa puts money in the vending machine and makes a selection. Nothing happens. She makes the selection again. Nothing happens. She kicks the machine. Nothing happens. Kicks it again. Still nothing. She starts crying.

INT. THEIR APARTMENT - NIGHT

Josh is sound asleep on the couch. Melissa sits next to him, awake and on her laptop. She searches: "How to get the magic back in your relationship." One search result is "Sacred Heart Love Trail in Montana."

She clicks on it, and opens up a page showing a beautiful woodland scene and a testimonial from a happy couple: "The Sacred Heart Love Trail saved our relationship!"

EXT. MONTANA TRAILHEAD - DAY

A hippie couple in their late 60's, MARV and JOANNA, address us at a trailhead in the Montana forest.

MARV

So what is the Sacred Heart Love Trail all about? Well, six years ago Joanna and I looked around and were super bummed at all the relationships falling apart, all the heartbreak out there on the planet.

JOANNA

Fleetwood Mac fired Lindsey Buckingham. I mean, is no one safe?

They're addressing a group of COUPLES gathered at the trailhead, all with hiking gear and backpacks. Among them are Melissa and Josh. Several nod their heads in agreement.

MARV

Now we're not perfect--

JOANNA

Although we have been together for
fifty-one years now--

She pauses and eventually people realize they're supposed to applaud. Marv and Joanna kiss as the applause dies down. For way too long. It's awkward. Josh and Melissa exchange cringey looks. Finally they break it off.

MARV

What's our secret? For us it's all
about aligning ourselves with the
cosmos. Disconnecting from the
physical world and connecting with
the source energy in each other. On
a magical little journey we like to
call true love.

Josh exchanges looks with what he thinks is a LIKE-MINDED
GUY. What are we doing here? But the guy just gives him a
look back--what's wrong with you?

JOANNA

And that's why we created the
Sacred Love Trail. Five days. Forty-
three miles. The two of you. A time
to commune with nature. Listen to
the voices of the past. And find
each other again. Now Marv is going
to hand out a couple of items to
help you along your journey.

Joanna gives Marv a nudge and he begins handing items out to
the couples.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

The first is an index card with
some daily love affirmations we've
found helpful in our own lives.
Many you'll probably recognize from
the movie Forrest Gump.

MARV

We love that movie.

JOANNA

It's just so good. And the second
is a token--a heart carved out of
sacred Chippewa stone with your
name on it. We ask that you give it
to your partner every morning.

(MORE)

JOANNA (CONT'D)

And as you carry your partner's heart with you throughout the day, think about what that really means. To give your heart to someone. And be entrusted with someone else's heart.

Marv hands Melissa a STONE HEART with her name on it. She smiles, loving it. Marv hands one to Josh. He stares at it. Unimpressed.

MARV

And that's it. Keep close to the trail, but feel free to go off on your own, at your own pace. Just don't wander off too far. There's no cell service here in the wild and we don't want anyone dying out there!

Everyone laughs at this.

MARV (CONT'D)

But seriously, people died last time. So be careful.

JOANNA

But most of all use this time as a way to grow the love you have for each other. Because there is nothing--nothing--more beautiful than that.

Melissa nods and gives Josh's arm a squeeze. He attempts a smile.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Two days later. It is pouring rain. A soaking wet Melissa marches determinedly through the forest, upset. An equally soaking wet Josh chases after her.

JOSH

Mel!

MELISSA

Leave me alone!

JOSH

All I said was we should bail on the hike! I wasn't talking about us in general! I just meant the hike!

Melissa keeps marching in silence.

JOSH (CONT'D)

I mean, come on. We've been lost for hours, our phones are dead, we're wet and miserable, you're pissed at me for some reason--

Melissa stops and turns to face Josh.

MELISSA

For some reason?

JOSH

Okay--

MELISSA

You lost my heart. I gave you my heart, and you just lost it.

JOSH

It was a ROCK!

MELISSA

It was a METAPHOR! I imbued it with meaning when I gave it to you!

JOSH

I mean, are you sure I didn't give it back to you? 'Cause--

Melissa produces the rock with Josh's name on it and holds it up in front of his face.

MELISSA

Then why do I have your heart??

JOSH

Fine, you're right, you're right, I must've lost it. So what, you want me to go back and look for it? Okay, I'll do it. I'll go back and search the whole forest until I find that one vaguely heart-shaped rock. Is that what you want?

MELISSA

Yes.

Josh stares at Melissa.

JOSH

Babe, it's a rock. And there's no way--

MELISSA

What's the point of doing this if you won't even put in the effort?

JOSH

I don't know what the point of this is at all!

MELISSA

So you don't want to make our relationship better?

JOSH

Our relationship is fine. It's... *fine!* Why does everything have to be perfect? Can't it just be enough?

MELISSA

Okay. Shut the door. Keep pretending nothing's wrong. Because it's easier that way.

JOSH

This is exhausting.

They stand there in silence.

MELISSA

Maybe we should do one of the affirmations they gave us.

JOSH

"Stupid is as stupid does"? How is that helpful?

Suddenly through the rain comes the sound of CHURCH BELLS RINGING.

MELISSA

Wait, what's that?

JOSH

Church bells?

MELISSA

You hear them too?

JOSH

You sometimes hear church bells that no one else hears?

MELISSA

Shut up, Josh. Come on.

They head in the direction of the bells.

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

Melissa and Josh emerge to a clearing and find a STREAM with a STONE BRIDGE stretching over it leading to a small village. The bells are definitely coming from there.

MELISSA

It's a town.

The two of them quickly head for the bridge. They step onto it together and start to cross. And as they cross the halfway point--

They both react, having felt something weird. [NOTE: there should be a dramatic change in the shooting style from now on. Everything--day or night--should look like it's filmed on a soundstage: artificial lighting, painted backdrops, etc., with scenes shot in long single takes.]

JOSH

Whoa.

MELISSA

What was that?

(realizing)

It stopped raining.

They look around and realize it's no longer raining. And it's sunny and bright.

JOSH

Weird.

They continue off the bridge. Josh looks around at the trees and grass and sky, confused.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Is it just me, or does everything here feel a little...off?

They see a sign: "WELCOME TO SCHMIGADOON, pop. 267."

MELISSA

"Welcome to Schmigadoon."

JOSH

"Schmigadoon"?

They look up ahead and see a classic American town, c. 1918, peopled with CITIZENS wearing the garb and attitude of the period. BOUNCY MUSIC STARTS UP. Josh looks around, confused.

JOSH (CONT'D)
Where is that coming from?

And then suddenly THE ENTIRE TOWN STARTS SINGING TO THEM. As if they were in a musical (SPOILER: THEY ARE).

SONG: "SCHMIGADOON!"

TOWNSPEOPLE
*Welcome to our little town
Where friends are all you'll meet
And you will never see a frown*

A milkman named PETE waves to everyone.

PETE
Hey everyone!

TOWNSPEOPLE
Hey there, Pete!

Melissa smiles, enjoying it. Josh frowns.

TOWNSPEOPLE (CONT'D)
*I bet you're prob'ly wonderin' what
we call
The most beautiful, wonderful,
magical place of all*

JOSH
What is happening?

MELISSA
I don't know. It must be something
they do for tourists. Like Colonial
Williamsburg.

TOWNSPEOPLE
*Schmigadoon!
Where the sun shines bright from
July to June
And the air's as sweet as a
macaroon
Schmigadoon!*

JOSH
What fresh hell is this?

MELISSA
(laughs)
Stop it. Let them sing!

TOWNSPEOPLE

Schmigadoon!
Where it's warm and safe as a new
cocoon
And our hearts all glow like a
harvest moon
Schmigadoon!
Where the men are men
And the cows are cows
And the farmers smile
As they push their plows
And the trees are tall
And we call it Schmigadoon!

Melissa turns to Josh with a smile.

MELISSA

Come on. It's charming.

JOSH

Okay, now I have to revisit all the
 times you called me charming.

The townspeople point to EMMA TATE, the pretty but severe
 town schoolmarm.

TOWNSPEOPLE

Our schoolmarm is Emma Tate
She helps our kids to punctuate

GOSSIPY WOMAN

Still unmarried at twenty-eight!

The town reacts as if this were the worst thing possible.

TOWNSPEOPLE

In Schmigadoon!

JOSH

Why are we introducing people?
 Can't you all just remain nameless?

Now they point to FARMER MCDONOUGH, a grizzled and grumpy
 farmer never without his handy SHOTGUN.

TOWNSPEOPLE

Farmer McDonough craved a son
But he had daughters every one

McDonough's SEVEN DAUGHTERS, including the flirty and
 incredibly sexy BETSY, appear behind him. He brandishes his
 shotgun.

FARMER MCDONOUGH
*Touch 'em and you'll answer to my
gun!*

TOWNSPEOPLE
In Schmigadoon!

**BANG! His gun accidentally fires. There's a PAINFUL CRY
offscreen.**

FARMER MCDONOUGH
Sorry, Pete!

PETE (O.S.)
I'm okay!

The townspeople continue the musical number, pointing out
more citizens of Schmigadoon.

TOWNSPEOPLE
Larry Freen puts out our fires

A FIREMAN in full gear tips his hat to the crowd.

TOWNSPEOPLE (CONT'D)
Mildred Pritt conducts the choirs

The elderly MILDRED PRITT conducts with her baton.

TOWNSPEOPLE (CONT'D)
If you're sick see Sue the nurse

A NURSE attends to Pete, who has a wounded and bleeding
shoulder. The town UNDERTAKER sings with a deep bass voice as
he puts the finishing touches on a CASKET.

UNDERTAKER
*And come see me if things get
worse!*

TOWNSPEOPLE
Go see him if things get worse!

Everyone laughs. Melissa looks concerned.

MELISSA
Is Pete okay?

TOWNSPEOPLE
Henry Orville brings our ice

HENRY holds a BLOCK OF ICE in tongs.

TOWNSPEOPLE (CONT'D)
Madam Cosma gives advice

MADAM COSMA is a fortune-teller.

TOWNSPEOPLE (CONT'D)
In that shack is Buford Riggs

They point to a broken-down SHACK in the distance. Out of the shack steps the sketchy farmhand BUFORD RIGGS holding a PIG.

BUFORD RIGGS
I do unspeakable things to pigs

TOWNSPEOPLE
He does unspeakable things to pigs!

Everyone laughs.

TOWNSPEOPLE (CONT'D)
Gertrude Schmidt runs the general store

GERTRUDE SCHMIDT waves from the front of the town General Store.

TOWNSPEOPLE (CONT'D)
And we could name a hundred more!

Josh relaxes, relieved it's over. But it keeps going.

TOWNSPEOPLE (CONT'D)
Like Grampa who tells dirty jokes

GRAMPA smiles dirtily.

TOWNSPEOPLE (CONT'D)
And Little Red who's got no folks

A LITTLE RED-HEADED ORPHAN GIRL in a red dress smiles and waves.

TOWNSPEOPLE (CONT'D)
Tyrone eats mud

TYRONE, the town idiot, sits in the mud and happily eats some.

TOWNSPEOPLE (CONT'D)
Pete's losing blood

The nurse tends to Pete, whose bloodstain has expanded considerably. **Suddenly a pudgy little boy with a lisp, CURTIS, runs into the town square.**

CURTIS
It'th the Mayor!

Everyone separates as the cheery, avuncular and very flamboyant MAYOR ALOYSIUS MENLOVE and his batty wife ELLEN MENLOVE arrive at the town square. Handing out "RE-ELECT MAYOR MENLOVE" buttons.

JOSH
Is this never going to end?

MELISSA
(laughs)
Shush! It's the Mayor!

He steps up to a flag-draped podium flanked by "RE-ELECT MENLOVE" signs and banners and speak-sings.

MAYOR MENLOVE
*As Mayor of Schmigadoon
I feel that I must stress
Our motto is "We always strive for
peace and happiness."*

Ellen joins in.

MAYOR AND ELLEN
*Our motto is
We always strive
For peace and happiness!*

CURTIS
It'th the Reverend'th wife!

MARGARET LAYTON, a busybody who delights in her moral superiority, approaches the podium accompanied by her husband, the gentle REVEREND LAYTON. She moves the Mayor aside with a smile. He tries to hide his annoyance.

MARGARET LAYTON
*But if Schmigadoon is to endure
It must be kept pristine and pure
This land on which our fathers trod
Must ever obey the laws of God!*

A CHILDREN'S CHOIR conducted by Margaret sings earnestly.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR
*The laws of God
We must obey with all our hearts
And never ever fiddle
With our naughty parts
Our dirty nasty filthy awful
(MORE)*

CHILDREN'S CHOIR (CONT'D)
*So bad they should be unlawful
 Naughty naughty naughty naughty
 Naughty parts!*

The Mayor, disturbed by this, calls out to the townspeople.

MAYOR MENLOVE
 Everybody!

They all gather for one last rousing chorus directed at
 Melissa and Josh.

TOWNSPEOPLE
*Schmigadoon!
 Where the church bells ring every
 day at noon
 And we ask that you use the town
 spittoon
 Schmigadoon!*

Grampa spits and hits the SPITTOON. DING!

TOWNSPEOPLE (CONT'D)
*Schmigadoon!
 Where the Reverend's wife shut down
 the saloon*

BUFORD RIGGS
*And the Wells Fargo wagon brought
 my new harpoon*

Buford Riggs holds up his new harpoon.

TOWNSPEOPLE
Schmigadoon!

The HARPOON GUN accidentally fires. There's a painful cry
 offscreen.

BUFORD RIGGS
 Sorry, Pete!

PETE (O.S.)
 Still okay!

TOWNSPEOPLE
*Where a man can dream
 Dreams so big and wide
 (MORE)*

TOWNSPEOPLE (CONT'D)

*And a gal can be
 Right there by his side
 And there's hope for all
 Whether great or small
 There's no fol-de-rol
 Bring your parasol
 And we call it Schmigadoon!*

After striking a grand, final pose, everyone immediately goes back to their business. Melissa bursts into applause.

MELISSA

Woo hoo!

Josh just stares. Annoyed and disturbed. Melissa shoots him a look and he halfheartedly joins in.

JOSH

Yay. You guys did that.
 (to Melissa)
 Can we please go now?

MELISSA

Already?

JOSH

You know how much I hate musicals.
 Everyone bursting into song. It's
 so unrealistic.

MELISSA

Like a magic hammer that comes back
 to you when you call it?

JOSH

It's called Mjolnir. And Thor is
 the God of Thunder so of course it
 would come when he calls!

Before Melissa can respond, Mayor Menlove call out to them.

MAYOR MENLOVE

Howdy, folks!

As he approaches them, Josh turns to Melissa in a panic.

JOSH

Oh no. Please don't make me
 interact with performers. You know
 how much I hate--
 (as the Mayor steps into
 earshot)
 Hey! Mr. Mayor!

MAYOR MENLOVE
Welcome to Schmigadoon! Mayor
Aloysius Menlove at your service!

He shakes both their hands enthusiastically and turns to his wife, Ellen.

MAYOR MENLOVE (CONT'D)
And this is my wife, Ellen.

Ellen shakes the Mayor's hand.

ELLEN MENLOVE
Hello.

MELISSA
Well, that was just delightful. I'm
Melissa and this is Josh.

The Mayor hands them "RE-ELECT MENLOVE" buttons.

MAYOR MENLOVE
Nice to meetcha! Have a button. I'm
running unopposed--again--but who
doesn't love buttons?

Suddenly a PHOTOGRAPHER appears with an ENORMOUS OLD CAMERA.

PHOTOGRAPHER
Mr. Mayor! For the Schmigazette!

**The Mayor re-creates his handshake with them as the
photographer ducks behind the camera and holds a FLASHLAMP.
FOOMP! The flash goes off in a tiny explosion and cloud of
smoke. The photographer pops out, all smiles.**

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)
Hot dog!

JOSH
How is this news?

MAYOR MENLOVE
It's always news when we get
visitors! Now you two'll be staying
at the Schmigadoon Inn, of course.

ELLEN MENLOVE
Oh, you'll love it! It's so fancy!
The beds are soft and the stairs go
up *and* down.

JOSH

Actually, we were just headed out,
so...

MELISSA

Josh. We've been sleeping on the
ground for days. You seriously want
to pass up an actual bed?

MAYOR MENLOVE

It's settled, then!

**Mayor Menlove calls to Curtis, who's running by rolling a
hoop with a stick.**

MAYOR MENLOVE (CONT'D)

Curtis! Run down to the inn and
tell Harvey we've got two very
special guests checking in.

Curtis' eyes couldn't be wider as he smiles from ear to ear.

CURTIS

Yeth thir, Mithter Mayor!

Curtis tosses his stick and hoop and takes off running down
Main Street. Margaret Layton swoops in.

MARGARET LAYTON

So. No wedding rings, I see.

MELISSA

Oh. No. We're not married.

JOSH

Definitely not.

MELISSA

Really?

JOSH

What?

MARGARET LAYTON

And traveling together?

(raises eyebrows)

Well. I guess you must not believe
in hell.

(beat)

Anyhoo. I'm Margaret Layton. And
this is my husband, the Reverend
Layton. Don't slouch, Howard.

The gentle Reverend Layton quickly adjusts his posture as he greets Josh and Melissa.

REVEREND LAYTON
Hope you folks can stay 'til
Sunday. Would love to see you in
the congregation.

JOSH
Oh, I can promise you we'll be long
gone by then.
(claps his hands together)
So where's this inn?

MAYOR MENLOVE
(waving them on)
Right this way!

The Menloves and Laytons lead the way down Main Street.
Melissa pulls Josh aside.

MELISSA
Be nice. Yes, it's cheesy, but it's
kind of fun.

JOSH
Interactive theater is not fun.
It's why America has chosen TV.
(beat)
Wait--do you think Marv and Joanna
are behind this? Like this is part
of the trail or something?

MELISSA
Wouldn't there be more of a Forrest
Gump theme?

JOSH
Good point.

They continue down Main Street, passing by the entrance to the carnival-like TUNNEL OF LOVE, complete with swan-shaped boats. DANNY BAILEY, the ruggedly handsome ride operator, smiles at Melissa as she passes by. He is trouble with a capital T.

DANNY
What do you say, little lady? Want
the thrill of a lifetime?
(suggestively)
First ride's on me.

Melissa stares at Danny, his look definitely stirring something in her. And then Margaret Layton intervenes, shaking her parasol at Danny.

MARGARET LAYTON

You just keep your distance, Danny Bailey. Our town would be a far more decent place without the likes of you!

DANNY

Now, Mrs. Layton, you don't mean that.

MARGARET LAYTON

Oh yes I do! You are nothing but a scoundrel, a rascal, and-- pardon my Jewish--a nogoodnik!

(to Melissa and Josh)

Go on. You don't want to waste any more time with this carnival trash.

Josh and Melissa continue on their way. Josh smiles.

JOSH

Ooh. Looks like the town bad boy's got a thing for you.

(rolling up sleeves)

Guess I'm gonna have to kick his ass.

MELISSA

(smiles)

That I'd like to see.

Melissa then glances back at Danny. He catches her eye and tips his cap with a sly smile. She turns away, bothered by how that makes her feel.

INT: INN - EVENING

DING! Josh rings the bell at the front desk and the INNKEEPER, a timid little bald man, comes running out.

INNKEEPER

Sorry to keep you waiting! You must be the visitors everybody's talking 'bout. S'pose you're looking for a room?

MARGARET LAYTON (O.S.)

Two! Rooms.

Josh and Melissa turn around and see Margaret Layton suddenly standing right behind them. It's unnerving.

MARGARET LAYTON (CONT'D)
They're not married, Harvey, and
I'm sure you're aware of the town
rules regarding such things.

The Innkeeper trembles under her gaze.

INNKEEPER
Yes. Of course, Mrs. Layton. Two
rooms.

Josh and Melissa exchange looks. Seriously? Josh turns to Margaret.

JOSH
Okay, I get it. You're the
preacher's wife and we're "living
in sin."
(in mock fear)
Aah, we're gonna burn in hell!
(to Innkeeper)
Just the one room, please.

Margaret Layton shoots the Innkeeper a threatening look. He turns to Josh apologetically.

INNKEEPER
Sorry, sir, but town policy is town
policy.

JOSH
Okay, listen, "Harvey the
Innkeeper," I'm tired. And frankly,
not up for playing along with your
little show, so--

MELISSA
Josh--relax. It's one night.
(to Innkeeper)
We'll take two rooms.

Margaret Layton smiles, triumphant. The Innkeeper looks relieved.

INNKEEPER
Great. That'll be a dollar.

Josh stares at the innkeeper. Then slaps a dollar down on the counter.

JOSH

Fine. Here's a *dollar*. For two rooms.

INNKEEPER

Thank you kindly.

The Innkeeper takes the dollar and places it in the old-fashioned register. Then slides two keys across the counter. Josh shakes his head.

JOSH

This is ridiculous.

MELISSA

So to clarify. You're mad because two rooms only cost a dollar?

JOSH

No, I just--I'm not interested in pretending we're all in "the olden days" right now. I just want to get a freaking room with my girlfriend, where there's wi-fi and I can check the score of the Knicks game and read my email.

The Innkeeper looks confused.

INNKEEPER

Sorry, sir, but the mail wagon won't be here 'til next week.

JOSH

I hate you.

Josh grabs the keys and storms toward the stairs. Melissa follows, smiling back at the Innkeeper and Margaret Layton.

MELISSA

(trying to be encouraging)
You guys are really so great.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Josh and Melissa head down the hallway looking for their rooms.

MELISSA

Okay, granted, this place is kind of insane.

JOSH
(throwing arms in the air)
Thank you!

Josh puts his hands on Melissa's shoulders.

JOSH (CONT'D)
It's important to me that we can
hate things together.

MELISSA
It *is* the foundation of any healthy
relationship.

Melissa finds her room number on a door.

MELISSA (CONT'D)
Well, this is me.

JOSH
It's been a while since I've heard
you say that.

They both smile, remembering. Josh softens.

JOSH (CONT'D)
Sorry I've been such a jerk. I just
really wish all these people would
die. Is that wrong?

MELISSA
You know what I wanna do? Take a
long hot shower and then go on the
Tunnel of Love.

JOSH
Really?

MELISSA
I know, it's corny, but what else
is there to do? And it might be
romantic?

JOSH
(sighs)
Sure. Pick you up at seven?

MELISSA
(smiles)
I'll be waiting.

They kiss.

MARGARET LAYTON (O.S.)

Ahem!

Josh and Melissa turn and see Margaret Layton at the end of the hall, giving them the evil eye. She exits.

JOSH

I hate this place so much.

EXT. INN - NIGHT

Establishing.

INT. MELISSA'S HOTEL ROOM - SAME

Melissa, showered and dressed, looks into a tiny vanity mirror as she applies lip gloss. Happy with the results, she sits on her bed. Waiting. She checks her phone. It's dead. She looks at a clock. It's almost 7:20. She frowns.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Melissa knocks on Josh's door. No answer. She frowns and tries again.

MELISSA

Josh?

Concerned, she turns the doorknob. CLICK! The door opens.

INT. JOSH'S HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The door creaks open and Melissa steps inside. Her face falls upon seeing--

Josh. In his boxers, passed out asleep on the bed. Snoring loudly. She looks down at him, knowing he's out for the night. She sighs.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Melissa exits back into the hallway. Heads for her room. Then stops, having a thought.

EXT. TUNNEL OF LOVE - NIGHT

Melissa approaches the Tunnel of Love [NOTE: this should definitely have the feel of "soundstage night." The trees and other plants are clearly not real, nor is the backdrop of the town at night.]. Danny, who's working on one of the boats, sees her coming and smiles. Tips his cap.

DANNY
Evening, miss.

MELISSA
Evening. Mister.

DANNY
I don't believe we were properly
introduced. The name's Danny. Danny
Bailey.

He holds out his hand to shake.

MELISSA
Ah yes, the rapscaillon. I'm
Melissa. Klippel.

She shakes his hand. Then, feeling awkward, looks up at the sky.

MELISSA (CONT'D)
It's so beautiful here at night.

DANNY
It's not alone.

Danny gives her a look. Melissa goes flush, finds her heart beating faster. Danny gestures to one of the swan boats.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Offer's still open. First ride's on
me. Second one too.

MELISSA
Oh. No. I'm just here to look.
Around.

Danny closes the door and shrugs.

DANNY
You're a funny kid.

Suddenly a GUST OF WIND blows through the trees, sending BLOSSOMS flying everywhere around Melissa and Danny. Melissa looks at them, amazed.

MELISSA

Wow. Look at all the blossoms.

DANNY

(shrugs)

Happens a lot this time a' year.
Whenever the wind blows.

Danny approaches Melissa. He moves close and removes a blossom that was caught in her hair. And stays close.

DANNY (CONT'D)

So. You have a feller?

MELISSA

Yes. I have a feller.

DANNY

And he's okay with you walking on
your own at night? Talking with
strange men?

Danny moves even closer. Melissa gets flustered.

MELISSA

Well. He. What was the question
again?

Danny turns away, giving Melissa a suspicious look.

DANNY

Wait a minute. What're you trying
to do, get me to fall for you?

MELISSA

What?? No.

DANNY

Then why do those crazy kinda
thoughts keep runnin' through my
head?

MELISSA

I don't really kn--

DANNY

Well, you can forget about it. No
woman's gonna tie Danny Bailey
down, no how.

MELISSA

Sure.

Suddenly MUSIC STARTS UP. And Danny sings.

SONG: "YOU CAN'T TAME ME"

DANNY

*When a squirrel wants another
squirrel
He don't bother to get attached*

Melissa looks around, confused. Where is the music coming from?

MELISSA

Wait--I get a private show?

DANNY

*And a robin don't think about the
future
When he's got an itch to be
scratched*

MELISSA

Wow, you're good.

DANNY

*I'm like an animal in the wild
So here's a truth to which you must
be reconciled...*

MELISSA

Like way too good for this place.
You need a better agent.

DANNY

*You can't tame me
This buck was meant to be free
A chorus girl with whom I was
flirtin'
Said she wanted things much more
certain
That's when I said, "Time for the
curtain"
You can't tame me*

MELISSA

Okay, I'm not quite sure what I'm
supposed to do here.

DANNY

*You can't tame me
You won't see me on one knee
A cowgirl on the range in El Paso
Smiled at me and got out her lasso
And that's when I put on the gas
Oh you can't tame me*

MELISSA

You know what, I'm just gonna stare
at you and smile. Does that work?

DANNY

*You can't tame me
I'm like the wind on the sea
A music teacher named Annabella
Tried her best to make me her fella
But I choose to live a cappella
You can't tame me, it's true
(sweetly)
But if anyone could, it'd be
someone like you*

**Danny takes Melissa by the hand and begins to dance with her.
He is strong and graceful, moving like Gene Kelly. She has no
idea what she's doing.**

MELISSA

Um. Wow. Okay. I didn't. I took
like one year of tap. Sure. Yeah.
Why not? I'll just.

DANNY

Shh. Let's let our bodies talk.

MELISSA

Okay. But mouths are technically
parts of our bodies, so--

Danny stops dancing and resumes singing. He puts his arm
around Melissa and points off into the distance.

DANNY

*And somehow I can see
Exactly how it'd be...
A cozy little cottage with a white
picket fence
And a tractor that always needs
fixin'
And beamin' with pride, the
prettiest bride
This side of the Mason-Dixon
We'd have a kid or two or three
Two girls for you, two boys for me*

MELISSA

Shouldn't all the kids be for both
of us?

Danny turns to Melissa and looks her right in the eyes.

DANNY

*And the two of us'd share one heart
'Til someday we'd die one day apart*

They are face to face, only an inch between them. They are clearly meant to kiss. The tension is incredible and Melissa definitely feels it. Then suddenly Danny turns away.

DANNY (CONT'D)

*But that'll never be
'Cause you can't tame me!*

A stunned Melissa stares. Then starts awkwardly applauding.

MELISSA

Great. Bravo!

Danny looks confused.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

That was a very handsome song.

DANNY

(confused)
Song? What song?

MELISSA

The one you were just singing to
me?

DANNY

(confused)
Singing?

MELISSA

(done with this now)
O-kay. It's late, and I'm tired,
and this is getting weird, so thank
you. And goodnight.

**Melissa quickly heads back to the inn. Shakes her head,
laughing to herself. What was that?**

Danny watches her go. Confused. What was that? FADE OUT.

EXT. SCHMIGADOON INN - DAY

**It's the next morning in Schmigadoon. Townsfolk hustle and
bustle and go about their business. Josh and Melissa sit at a
table in the inn's outdoor cafe. Melissa looks Josh in the
eyes, very serious.**

MELISSA

Josh, this morning, as an emblem of my love for you, I'd like to give you my heart.

She holds out a fist and opens it. Revealing--nothing.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

(playfully)

Oh, that's right. You lost it.

JOSH

Okay, I'm sorry. I'm a big stupid jerk. And I'm sorry I fell asleep last night.

(beat)

So to make it up to you, today we can do the Tunnel of Love ride as many times as you want.

Melissa quickly glances over at the Tunnel of Love, then turns back to Josh.

MELISSA

Yeah, I'm good.

JOSH

Really? 'Cause last night--

MELISSA

(looks at menu)

I'm really hungry. Can we order?

(spots waitress)

Waitress!

The waitress comes over to the table. It's Betsy McDonough, Farmer McDonough's oldest daughter. Gorgeous, innocent, flirty and oozing sexiness.

BETSY

Good morning! How're we doing?
Sleep well last night?

Josh takes in Betsy. She is stunning.

JOSH

Yes.

(looks at nametag)

Betsy. Slept like a log.

BETSY

(laughs)

Oh my gosh! "Like a log"?

(MORE)

BETSY (CONT'D)
That is hilarious. Logs don't
sleep! You are so funny.

She puts her hand on Josh's arm. Melissa is annoyed. Josh
smiles like an idiot.

JOSH
I'm not that funny.

MELISSA
He's really not. Anyway, could we
maybe order something?

BETSY
Sure! And you're in luck, 'cause
today we've got our world-famous
corn puddin'.

MELISSA
Corn puddin'? What's that?

Suddenly MUSIC STARTS UP.

BETSY
What? You mean to tell me you never
heard of corn puddin'?
(to townsfolk)
She's never heard of corn puddin'!

Josh looks around, panicked.

JOSH
Oh no. It's a song.
(to Melissa)
You just started another song!

SONG: "CORN PUDDIN'"

A group of townsfolk start singing at Josh and Melissa.

TOWNSPEOPLE
Corn puddin'
Corn puddin'
Corn puddin' corn puddin'
Corn puddin' corn puddin'

JOSH
(raises hand)
Can we opt out of this?

All of the men sing together.

MEN

*My gal loves corn puddin'
 She eats it constantly
 Sometimes I get to wonderin'
 Does she love it more than me?*

TOWNSPEOPLE

Does she love it more than me?

All of the women sing together.

WOMEN

*My guy loves corn puddin'
 I've got the recipe
 So if he wants my puddin'
 He'll have to marry me*

TOWNSPEOPLE

Yes, he'll have to marry me!

Melissa smiles, enjoying this. Josh is horrified.

TOWNSPEOPLE (CONT'D)

*You put the corn in the puddin'
 And the puddin' in the bowl
 You put the bowl in your belly
 'Cause it's good for the soul!
 You put the corn in the puddin'
 And the puddin' in the bowl
 You put the bowl in your belly
 'Cause it's good for the soul!*

A COOK sings next to a GIANT VAT of corn pudding.

COOK

Who wants corn puddin'?

TOWNSPEOPLE

We want corn puddin'!

COOK

Who wants corn puddin'?

TOWNSPEOPLE

We want corn puddin'!

Suddenly everyone turns expectantly to Josh and Melissa as the music vamps.

JOSH

What?

MELISSA

I think they want us to take a
verse.

JOSH

Oh no. I am not singing. And you
are not singing.

MELISSA

Come on, it might be fun.

JOSH

Mel--no. Do not.

Melissa gives Josh a look--really? Then stands up and starts
singing.

MELISSA

Never had corn puddin'

JOSH

What the hell.

MELISSA

*And it might be a waste
But if you've got some extry*

JOSH

"Extry"?

MELISSA

I sure would like a taste

TOWNSPEOPLE

Oh, she sure would like a taste!

Melissa does a fist-pump. She's part of the action! And it's
the big finish. The townspeople turn to each other, smiling
and laughing and eating corn pudding.

TOWNSPEOPLE (CONT'D)

A taste of corn puddin'!!!

That's it for Josh. He immediately pulls Melissa off the
table and away from the crowd.

JOSH

What is wrong with you?

MELISSA

That was so weird. As soon as I
started singing, it's like I knew
what to say.

JOSH

Okay, now you're freaking me out.
We're leaving.

MELISSA

What, why?

JOSH

Are you serious? The entire town
and you just spent five minutes
singing about corn pudding!

COOK (O.S.)

Did somebody say "corn puddin' "?

The SONG STARTS UP again. Josh turns to Melissa.

JOSH

Okay. We're done here.

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

Josh and Melissa head towards the bridge, backpacks on [NOTE:
again, no attempt at realism should be made here, we are
clearly on a soundstage and the trees, bushes, grass and
stream are man-made.].

MELISSA

I just feel bad. Everybody was so
nice and we didn't even say
goodbye.

JOSH

Since when do you say goodbye to a
town? They'll be fine.

The two of them step onto the bridge. They walk across it.

But when they get halfway across, find they are heading back
to Schmigadoon. Josh stops.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Wait a minute. What?

He turns around and Melissa follows suit. They head away from
town. But as they hit the halfway point once again find
themselves heading back to town.

JOSH (CONT'D)

What is going on?

MELISSA

It's like we can't leave.

JOSH
Of course we can leave!

They try again. But once again when they get to the halfway point they're heading back to town. They turn to each other, freaked out.

JOSH (CONT'D)
What the hell?

MELISSA
Okay, this is freaky. It's like
it's. Magic. Or--

JOSH
It's not magic.

MELISSA
Then what is it?

JOSH
I don't know. It's a trick bridge
or something.

MELISSA
A "trick bridge"? What would that
even be?

JOSH
It would be this!

Josh gets a determined look and suddenly attempts to cross the bridge again, this time sprinting. And he once again finds himself still on the Schmigadoon side of the bridge.

JOSH (CONT'D)
Holy shit.

MELISSA
(freaking out)
Okay, what the hell is going on??

As if in answer to their question--POOF! A LITTLE LEPRECHAUN appears in front of them. They stare at him, stunned. He calmly takes a puff on his pipe and then addresses them in a thick Irish brogue.

LEPRECHAUN

"Once ye have entered Schmigadoon
'Tis true ye won't be leaving soon
Within its borders ye are bound
Until at last TRUE LOVE ye've found
But 'til ye've found it ye must
stay
Where life's a musical every day."

POOF! The Leprechaun is gone. Josh looks like he's going to be sick. He puts a hand on Melissa's shoulder to steady himself.

JOSH

Was that a leprechaun?

MELISSA

Yes.

They contemplate this in dumbfounded silence. Then Melissa breaks it.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

He said something. What did he say?

JOSH

I'm not sure. I was more focused on how he was shattering my whole construct of what is real and not real in the world. Because HE WAS A FREAKING LEPRECHAUN!

MELISSA

Look--we need to figure this out. If he said something, it was important.

(thinks)

I think it was--"Something something Schmigadoon, something won't be leaving soon."

JOSH

And something about "life's a musical every day."

MELISSA

(realizing)

Because this isn't an act for tourists. This is for real. We're in a musical. An actual musical.

JOSH

Oh please God no.

MELISSA

But he said we're only here until
we've found "true love." Which--

(turns to Josh)

I love you. Do you love me?

JOSH

What? Yes. Of course.

MELISSA

Then maybe we should try the bridge
again. Now that we know the
requirements.

JOSH

Yes. Now we know!

**The two of them head for the bridge. They stop in front of
it. Exchange a look. Then clasp hands.**

MELISSA

I love you.

JOSH

I love you too.

MELISSA

(calls up to sky)

You hear that, Mr. Leprechaun?
We're in love!

**They walk across the bridge. And when they get to the halfway
point--**

They find themselves heading back towards Schmigadoon.

They turn to each other. Exchange looks.

Blackout.

END OF EPISODE