THE LOUISE LOG S3 9

FAMILY THERAPY

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THOUGH LOUISE’S INNER VOICE/VOICE-OVER IS OCCASIONALLY NOTED IN THE SCRIPT, IT’S WRITTEN IN POST-PRODUCTION AND ITS EXTENT AND PLACEMENT ARE WORKED OUT THEN.

1. INT. LOUISE’S DREAM – LOUISE’S LIVING ROOM – DAY

The camera dollies in on a wobble to a CU on ETHELRED who is laughing in a scary way.

ETHELRED
You thought this was for real? Who are you?

He continues to LAUGH and puts a hand to the top of his head, starts to rip a wig from his head.

2. INT. LOUISE’S BEDROOM – EARLY MORNING

LOUISE jerks to a sitting position in bed. PHINEAS sleeps restlessly beside her.

PHINEAS
(talking in his sleep)
I’m all alone!

Louise’s voice has something to say about that.

3. INT. LOUISE’S DINING ROOM – DAY

Stacks of labelled, closed-up packing boxes line the room. Louise scrambles back and forth to the table serving breakfast to LIZA, CHARLES and PHINEAS. ETHELRED is playing aloof, hiding behind a copy of the New York Times.

CHARLES
Grandfather, we learned it in Health class.

ETHELRED
(Dropping the paper)
What did you learn?

CHARLES
Unexpressed emotion makes you sick.

Ethelred snorts, goes back to his paper.

LIZA
We should go on the Dr. Phil Show.
PHINEAS
We are not going on television.

LOUISE
But. Charles is right: we need help. My college roommate is a therapist. She might even be a family therapist.

ETHELRED
(lowering the paper)
Count me out.

LOUISE
We have to give this a chance. I’m going to call her.

4. INT. LOUISE’S LIVING ROOM - DAY

The oversize television faces a semi-circle of chairs. Louise, in her underwear, pleads with Ethelred:

LOUISE
I’m sure you can keep them on. But she said she has to be able to see the muscles.

Phineas arrives in his boxers. Louise enlists his help.

PHINEAS
Please Dad. You said you’d do one session. Come on.

AVA
(in gorgeous lingerie)
Do I have time to make a phone call?

LOUISE
No! And why are you all covered up?? You’re spose to be...(gesturing to herself).

Louise turns on the television. Ethelred goes behind the couch and removes his shirt, folding it meticulously, taking as long as possible.

LOUISE (CONT’D)
It’s time. Oh my gosh, the name tags! Phinny will you get the name tags?

The Skype screen opens on a calm professional woman:
THERAPIST
Hello, I’m Dr. Walters, Family Therapist.

LOUISE
Hi..HI! Dr. Walters. Can you give us a minute? We forgot the name tags.

THERAPIST
Of course.

Dr. Walters checks her watch. Ethelred is still behind the couch meticulously folding and re-folding a handkerchief, he glances at the television.

LOUISE
Come on, everybody!

Ava takes her seat, Phineas and Louise, everyone affixing their name tags where they can. Louise motions to Phineas to get his father to join them.

PHINEAS
(holding out a name tag)
Dad?

Ethelred still takes a minute before he ventures out from behind the couch still wearing slacks and an undershirt.

THERAPIST
Okay, is everybody ready-- (spotting Ethelred) uuhhh...

LOUISE
Thanks for squeezing us into your schedule this week!

ETHELRED
(under his breath)
Thanks for nothing!

THERAPIST
Excuse me? Sir? In the slacks?

Louise alerts Phineas to the problem. The Therapist struggles to read his name tag, her face enormous on the screen:

THERAPIST (CONT’D)
Uhhh. What is your name, sir?

ETHELRED
Mr. Black.
THERAPIST
Okay. Mr. Black. In Bio-energetics, we look at the musculature, at the skeletal system. We try to discover AND CORRECT the dysfunction on the physical plane. I need to see your body!

Ethelred shakes his head.

ETHELRED
(muttering)
Not taking em off. This’s my house!

THERAPIST
Okay... Well... If we could all please stand with feet wide apart... (peering out, face too close to the camera) Kinda hard to do this on skype... Louise, can you turn on any more lights? I’m having a hard time seeing the musculature...

Louise rushes around the room turning on lights. Phineas and Ava giggle, self-conscious. Ethelred is firmly uncooperative.

THERAPIST (CONT’D)
You know what, let’s try some verbal sharing...

ETHELRED
Oh come on, really?? We’re gonna conversate?

The Therapist reacts to this statement and then has a hard time forming a word.

THERAPIST
I beg your pardon Mr. Black. Did you say ‘conversate’?

Ethelred nods.

THERAPIST (CONT’D)
Wow! Okay so uh, very unusual word-- I only know one person who ever used that word. Now I try to be very professional-- Mr. Black ... Did you ever live in Madison, Wisconsin?

Ethelred nods.
THERAPIST (CONT’D)
And did you go by the name of ‘Red’?

ETHELRED
Yes, yes I did! (to Louise) What is this, a game show??

THERAPIST
(speechless at first)
Red. It’s Petra. Petra, your-- your ‘Love Pet’!

Ethelred studies her.

THERAPIST (CONT’D)
Surely you remember!

Ethelred feels the noose tightening.

THERAPIST (CONT’D)
...that hot summer night? When you went out for cigarettes and NEVER. CAME. BACK!

Ethelred studies her in disbelief.

THERAPIST (CONT’D)
I was nineteen! I-- I LOVED YOU!

LOUISE
Oh my God. (to Ethelred) Professor Black from the Drama Department!

Phineas and Ava react badly to the revelation.

ETHELRED
Come on, Petra. Who knew it meant that much to you?

Ear-splitting sobs come from The Therapist on the screen, suddenly completely out of control.

ETHELRED (CONT’D)
No no no no no no no. Come on Kiddo.

THERAPIST
DO NOT CALL ME KIDDO!

ETHELRED
All right. All right! I’m sorry!
THERAPIST
(shreiking) Did you ever love me??
DID YOU? Or was it just more role
playing? (more uncontrollable
sobbing)

ETHELRED
(to Louise)
You set me up!

Louise shakes her head. The Therapist continues with her
break down.

THERAPIST
For twenty five years I’ve been
saving this for you--

AVA
I think this session is over. Did
we pay in advance?

The Therapist searches through a large pocketbook.

Ethelred and the entire family are riveted to the screen.

The Therapist pulls out a hand gun and points it at the
screen.

Ethelred and everyone else ducks. Ethelred shields his face
with his hands.

GUN SHOTS ring out along with the sound of crashing and
general pandemonium as the Therapist drops from view.

THERAPIST
OWWWWWW. FUC(bleep)!!

Louise rushes to the screen. More SHOTS ring out.

LOUISE
Petra?? PETRA? Do I call nine one
one?

Phineas, Ethelred and Ava crowd around the television screen
trying to peer into it in horror. Sobs and crying come
through the television. Louise runs for the phone and begins
to dial, her inner voice taking over.

THE END