

ABROAD
Episode One
CONTINUED:

"Meet The Expats"

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8/29/15
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JUDD (V.O.)
...And now I'm here.
(beat)
It's crazy how quickly things can
change.

Judd stops and pulls out a DOLLAR BILL. As he drops it into
the homeless man's cup, a KID runs behind Judd and STEALS
SOMETHING out of his bag.

JUDD (V.O.)
One minute you have everything, and
the next, you have... Paris.

The homeless man stares at the bill, blows his nose with it,
then hands it back. Judd motions for the man to keep it, and
awkwardly waves goodbye. As he walks away, he steps in a pile
of DOG SHIT.

12

JUDD TALKING HEAD

12

JUDD
The city of amour.

END COLD OPEN

SMASH TO TITLE CARD: "ABROAD"

13

EXT. STREETS (PARIS) - ESTABLISHING

13

The city is bustling.

14

JUDD TALKING HEAD

14

Judd is outside his new apartment building. He grins at the
camera.

SUPER: "JUDD"

JUDD
Should we check out the new digs?
(turns to door)
Allons-y!
(back to camera)
I took French in high school.

He takes a piece of paper out of his pocket and punches in
the building code. A high-pitched RING sounds off. He pulls
at the door, but it doesn't budge.

JUDD (CONT'D)
How do you do this... is it push...

(CONTINUED)

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He pushes the door and it opens slightly, but it's extremely heavy.

JUDD (CONT'D)
(pushing)
Here we go... it's going...

He puts the weight of his whole body on the door, breathing hard.

JUDD (CONT'D)
(between breaths)
Wow, this is heavy for a population of tiny people.

The door slides forward very slowly. Judd chuckles and continues to push.

15

INT. STAIRWELL/JUDD'S APARTMENT - D1

15

Judd pulls his luggage up the final steps of a seven-story climb. He's borderline hyperventilating.

The CAMERAMAN (never seen) also seems to be gasping for air, causing the CAMERA to WIGGLE.

JUDD
(to cameraman)
Are you okay?
(gasping)
Maybe leave that out.

JUMP CUT TO:

Judd looks much better.

JUDD (CONT'D)
Bienvenue chez moi!

He turns the key in the door and pushes. The door doesn't budge. He tries harder, trying not to seem weak.

JUDD (CONT'D)
Seems to be stuck--

The door suddenly SLAMS open.

Judd looks in -- the apartment is a tiny shithole. Judd is frozen in his former smile.

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JEANETTE (O.S.)
(French)
Shut up, you slut!

NICO
(French)
I know where your grandchildren go to
school!

CUT TO:

19

INT. CAFÉ - MOMENTS LATER

19

Nico smiles at the camera, hair wet and disheveled.

NICO
So, this is where the magic happens.
Usually we're really packed.

ANGLE ON: The empty interior.

Nico catches the eye of SOMEONE OFF SCREEN.

ANGLE ON: GUILLAUME, 28, serious and rugged, smoking outside.
Nico waves excitedly.

NICO (CONT'D)
That's my roommate!
(calls him over)
Guillaume!

Guillaume shakes his head "no."

NICO (CONT'D)
Guillaume is an amazing writer, really
well known. And Bisou is his emotional
care animal.

ANGLE ON: Bisou wearing a pink collar.

NICO (CONT'D)
(whispers)
Bisou was his ex-girlfriend's, and she
left her with Guillaume when they
broke up.

CAMERA PANS to Guillaume who is suddenly next to Nico.

GUILLAUME
We didn't break up. I had her
exorcised from my soul.

(CONTINUED)

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NICO

It was messy.

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INT. MARGO'S FLAT - LIVING ROOM - D1

20

Margo sits on her couch.

MARGO

I moved to Paris from Hollywood about two years ago to finish my studies in literature, and afterward, I decided I wanted to work in film.

SUPER: "MARGO"

MARGO (CONT'D)

So, I don't know if I would call myself a screenwriter, but that's pretty much what I do.

(beat)

Yeah, I probably could've stayed in Hollywood.

CAMILLE (O.S.)

Margo!

ANGLE ON: An annoyed Camille entering the room.

CAMILLE (CONT'D)

(re: cameras)

Ah oui d'accord, donc en fait ils sont là tout le temps.

MARGO

Everybody, meet Camille! My lovely roommate.

CAMILLE

(to camera)

Ouais, alors moi je suis pas une "expat", hein. Moi je suis Française, merci bien.

Margo smiles at the camera, "Isn't she sweet?"

CAMILLE (CONT'D)

Paul needs to use the... uh... psh pshh.

Camille mimes ironing while making steam sounds.

(CONTINUED)

MARGO

What are you, rapping?

CAMILLE

Non mais sérieux, le truc, là, pour la planche à repasser. Putain, il faut de la patience avec toi, Margo.

MARGO

Okay, relax. I'll be done in twenty minutes, and then he can use it.

CAMILLE

Il a un entretien.

MARGO

I'm literally in the middle of an interview.

CAMILLE

Ah ben c'est bon alors, tu peux finir plus tard.

CLOSE ON: Margo's disbelief.

CUT TO:

PAUL TALKING HEAD

On the couch. He is incredibly charming and has a British accent.

PAUL

(introducing)

Paul. Australian.

(beat)

I've been here about two years now -- wow, the time just flies by. But I've been very lucky. I've been working--

Camille and Margo argue in the b.g.

MARGO

Just buy one at Ikea, you friggin' love that place! Or I can rip it off the wall and screw it on your face for Paul's convenience!

CAMILLE

Non mais ça t'arrive de penser aux autres, espèce de troglodyte ? Paul a un VRAI travail, lui. Et tu sais très bien que j'aime pas Ikea, tu retires ça de suite !

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PAUL
(raising voice)
Having my own place would be nice, but
I prefer to stay with Camille -- the
apartment is much closer to her job
and within her price range.

Camille suddenly appears next to Paul. She nibbles at his
ear.

CAMILLE
Mais oui, mon coeur.

CAMERA PANS to Margo walking back to her bedroom, rubbing her
temples.

22 MARGO TALKING HEAD

22

MARGO
Yeah, I miss home all the [bleep]
time.

23 INT. STAIRWELL - D1

23

Nico and Guillaume exit the elevator.

NICO
We've been here for about a year.

Guillaume ignores the camera and opens the door of the
apartment.

24 INT. NICO'S APARTMENT - D1

24

A gorgeous apartment styled in leather, bookshelves, and
artistic PHOTOGRAPHS of NUDE WOMEN.

NICO
We decorated together.

Guillaume releases Bisou into the apartment.

GUILLAUME
(whispers)
Reviens-moi, mon amour.

CAMERA FOLLOWS Nico to a MACABRE PAINTING on display.

NICO
This is a self-portrait. I painted it
when I was with my ex.

(CONTINUED)

She looks at the painting fondly.

NICO (CONT'D)

So many good memories.

(then)

Oh, and we have a great view.

The CAMERA FOLLOWS Nico to the window and LOOKS OUT at an amazing rooftop view of Paris.

NICO (CONT'D)

You can see everything from here.

The CAMERA PANS LEFT to a building across the way. A NAKED MAN can be seen doing squats next to his window. His private parts are CENSORED.

NICO (CONT'D)

That's naked Brian.

GUILLAUME

Ce salopard a tout compris.

In the living room.

NICO

I don't know if I could ever move.

Guillaume and I get along so well, I live right next to my best friend, my cafe is nearby...

(then)

Plus, my parents own the building, so I sort of get a family discount.

(beat)

I think we have the perfect situation.

She glances at Guillaume who's smoking on the couch.

GUILLAUME

J'aurais bien habité avec ma soeur, mais on s'aime trop.

(beat)

On s'entre-tuerait.

Judd peeks out of his door.

JUDD

--Okay, you wait and I'll act surprised.

He closes the door and opens it again casually.

JUDD (CONT'D)

Oh, hey! Come on in!

CAMERA MOVES into the room.

JUDD (CONT'D)

So, here we have the kitchen...
(beat)
The bathroom...

CAMERA STOPS on the bathroom, roughly the width of a person. It MOVES DOWN to a LARGE BATH MAT.

JUDD (CONT'D)

Decorated a bit. Fancified.
(then)
The salon cum bed room...

CAMERA PANS around the tiny room. There's not much to see.

JUDD (CONT'D)

And come look at the view.

ANGLE ON: Out the window, a view of other apartments.

JUDD (CONT'D)

Oh, I almost forgot.

He takes a small folded piece of paper out of his wallet. He unfolds it twenty times -- It's a large poster of Beyoncé. He pins it to a cork board above the bed.

JUDD (CONT'D)

Reminds me to always be strong, and flexible, and to never let white supremacy bring me down.

INT. CAVE/BASEMENT - APARTMENT BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER - D18

Judd walks down the apartment building's dark and dirty underground hallway.

JUDD

Apparently, I have my own cave. Which is pronounced "cahve" here.
(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

28

JUDD (CONT'D)

I'm a little scared of cahves, so it's nice to have company.

He opens a broken, wooden door and looks into the darkness. The basement room is empty with the exception of a few broken kitchen parts.

JUDD (CONT'D)

Nice. Some spare parts. Maybe I can make it my "*mahn cahve*." Could be super manly.

There's a slight movement in the corner.

JUDD (CONT'D)

What's that?

A RAT suddenly runs out from a corner.

JUDD (CONT'D)

What-- Holy! NO! Don't look back! GOD NOOO!!!

Judd pushes past the CAMERA and runs back upstairs.

29

INT. MARGO'S OFFICE - D1

29

Margo vigorously works on her laptop, bites her pen in thought, and sticks post-its to the wall.

MARGO (V.O.)

I generally write about cultural differences in dating, careers, and lifestyle, but with a Sci-fi twist.

30

MARGO TALKING HEAD

30

MARGO

It's hard moving to a new country... When I think about the fact that I came here with no money, no friends, no idea what I was doing with my life...

B-roll: Margo thoughtfully walks down the street and accidentally walks over an AIR VENT. Her skirt flies up over her head. She CURSES (censored).

MARGO (CONT'D)

I think -- only a nut-job who's hit rock bottom would do something like that.

(CONTINUED)

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STEAM slowly seeps INTO FRAME across Margo's face.

MARGO (CONT'D)
But I've really made a life for myself
here. And honestly, if I hadn't moved
here, I don't know where I would be.

WIDEN TO REVEAL: Margo's so-called "office" is actually
crammed in the corner of her bedroom. Paul irons
handkerchiefs on the pull-out ironing board next to her desk.

MARGO (CONT'D)
Yeah, Hollywood.

A cloud of steam expels from the iron with a *PSHHH*.

CREDITS ROLL

TAG

31 INT. LOBBY - APARTMENT BUILDING - D1 (FLASHBACK) 31

Judd stares at the THREE BUTTONS next to the door, trying to
figure out which button does what. He clicks one, nothing
happens. He clicks another, the lights GO OFF.

JUDD (O.S.)
Let me use my phone's flashlight.
(beat)
Where's my phone?!

JUMP CUT TO:

32 INT. LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER 32

A LIGHT SHINES from O.S. onto the buttons. Judd examines and
clicks one -- a WOMAN SCREAMS from upstairs. Judd freezes.
The cameraman SHUTS the light OFF.

END OF SHOW