

New Girl

"Polka Dots"

Ep. in S01

Written by
Jessie Castellano

ACT ONE

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

JESS skips into the kitchen to find NICK sitting at the counter with his arms crossed and head down. Jess is wearing a red and black polka dot dress with a sewn-on ladybug, a red headband, black stockings, and black ballet flats. She hums the rhythm of a nursery rhyme.

JESS

Good morning Nick! Do you think I should wear my ladybug or my bumblebee dress today?

Nick lifts his head and just sarcastically laughs at Jess.

JESS

Why did you just laugh?

NICK

It was nothing.

JESS

What does that mean? How was it nothing? You laughed. A laugh is not nothing.

NICK

Jess. Seriously. It was nothing.

JESS

Then, what do you think of my dress options?

Nick sarcastically laughs again.

JESS

Nick! What the H-E-double-hockey-sticks is that laugh about?

NICK

Fine, Jess. You dress and sometimes just act like a child.

Jess pauses and stares at him and then storms away.

NICK

Wait, Jess!

Jess slams the door.

EXT. THEIR APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Jess calls CECE on the phone. Begins speaking before Cece says anything.

JESS

Cece. Cece. I hate Nick. Nick is the worst. I hate Nick!

INT. CECE'S APARTMENT - DAY - INTERCUT WITH ABOVE

CECE

Hello. Hello. Jess. What's going on? Is everything okay?

JESS

I didn't say one word to Nick this morning, and he told me I dress and act like a child. Do you think I act like a child? Do I dress like a child? I'm so upset. This is so upsetting.

CECE

No, Jess. I don't think you act like a child. Men don't know anything about fashion. You should tell Nick to be embarrassed by how he dresses. Just forget about him today.

JESS

Okay, I will. Thanks, Cece. You're the best.

The phone call ends.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Nick sits at the counter, staring at the door - dumbfounded.
SCHMIDT runs out of his room.

SCHMIDT

What's going on? Why are we slamming doors this early in the morning?

NICK

Nothing. Jess is just being dramatic. I commented on how she dresses, and she flipped out and slammed the door.

SCHMIDT

Nick, seriously! I can't believe you! Do you not remember that time in college?

CUT TO: FLASHBACK - INT. COLLEGE DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Nick and Fat Schmidt walk into a college dorm party; both clearly very nervous. A PRETTY BLONDE GIRL stands next to Nick, and he taps her on the shoulder and stares at her for an awkward amount of time.

NICK

Um, hi.

PRETTY BLONDE GIRL

Hi, what's your name?

NICK

It's um ... your name. Oh, you want to know MY name. It - it's Nick.

PRETTY BLONDE GIRL

Well, what's up, Nick?

Another awkward pause.

NICK

Your shirt is so ugly.

Nick covers his mouth in disbelief, not realizing what he said.

PRETTY BLONDE GIRL

Ugh.

With no words, the girl throws her drink in Nick's face.

CUT TO: BACK TO PRESENT - INT. KITCHEN

NICK

That girl was just being dramatic too.

Nick walks out of the room - annoyed, while WINSTON walks in and plops down in a chair. Schmidt's phone buzzes. He chuckles to himself.

WINSTON

What are you giggling at?

SCHMIDT

So the other night, I was at the bar...

CUT TO: FLASHBACK - INT. BAR. - NIGHT

Nick is bartending while Schmidt sits across the bar. Schmidt points to a girl, NATASHA, at the end of the bar.

SCHMIDT

Who is that girl? She's hot. I want to talk to her.

NICK

Dude, you are so annoying.

SCHMIDT

Nick. You're my best friend. Help me. Please.

NICK

Fine. I heard her talking about how she got a new cat and wants to meet someone else with a kitten so her kitten can have friends.

Schmidt gives Nick an approving nod and gets up to talk to the girl. He sits down next to her.

SCHMIDT

Hey.

NATASHA

Hi.

SCHMIDT

It's Schmidt.

Schmidt puts his hand out to shake Natashas. She sips her drink awkwardly.

NATASHA

That's cool. I'm Natasha.

Natasha seems uninterested in the conversation.

SCHMIDT

Sorry, I just can't stop thinking about my new kitten at home.

NATASHA

You just got a new cat?! I did too!

SCHMIDT

Yes, cats are my favorite animal. I love them so much. They are just so fluffy and cute.

Natasha picks up her phone and hands it to Schmidt.

NATASHA

Here. Give me your number. I would love for my kitten to make new friends.

Schmidt puts his number in her phone.

CUT TO: BACK TO PRESENT - INT. KITCHEN

SCHMIDT

So, I'm going to go on the date with her tomorrow.

WINSTON

So you lie to get girls?

SCHMIDT

Yeah, obviously. Does it look like I actually have a cat?

WINSTON

You're such an idiot, dude.

Winston exits. Schmidt calls an adoption center and puts the phone on speaker.

RECEPTIONIST

Hi. This is the *Los Angeles Pet Adoption Center*. How can I help you?

SCHMIDT

Hi! What is the protocol for borrowing a cat for a day? Honestly, maybe 3 or 4 hours.

RECEPTIONIST

There is no protocol. That's not something we do with our animals.

SCHMIDT

What the heck? I'm willing to pay.

RECEPTIONIST

They are living, breathing things. You can't just rent them for when you need them.

SCHMIDT

You clearly don't care about animals if you won't let them have a little fun!

Schmidt hangs up and talks to himself...

SCHMIDT

I need a different approach.

Schmidt dials another adoption center. We hear the phone ring.
It picks up...

RECEPTIONIST 2

Hello. Thank you for calling *Pet Rescue LA*. How can I help you?

SCHMIDT

Hi. I have to go visit my niece who is sick in the hospital. She loves kittens. Is there any way I could borrow one for the day? Just to make her happy.

RECEPTIONIST 2

No, I'm sorry. We don't do that here.

SCHMIDT

You clearly do not care about the ill youth.

The phone call hangs up.

SCHMIDT

UGHHHHH.

OPENING CREDITS

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Schmidt sits on the couch, deep in thought. Winston enters.

SCHMIDT

Winston, will you please help me out?

WINSTON

Schmidt. I don't want to play a part in your lie.

SCHMIDT

All I need is a cat.

WINSTON

No.

SCHMIDT

Don't you love cats? Don't you want to give a poor cat the best day of its short, short life?

Winston thinks...

CUT TO: FLASHBACK - INT. WINSTON'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM - NIGHT

Young Winston sits on his bed reading a magazine called *Cat World*. He is surrounded by multiple other cat books, magazines, etc.

CUT TO: BACK TO PRESENT - INT. LIVING ROOM

WINSTON

Fine, I'll do it.

SCHMIDT

YES!!!

WINSTON

I am only agreeing because I'm going to find the cutest cat that you've ever seen, and I'm going to make you love cats by the end of the day tomorrow.

SCHMIDT

Dude, why are you so obsessed with cats? Have you ever even had one?

WINSTON

You know I get upset about this. My mom was allergic. Honestly, though, cats are the best animals. They are smart, self-sufficient, small, clean, and most importantly, cute as a button.

SCHMIDT

Okay. Okay. Got it. Just find me one.

MONTAGE:

INT. JESS'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Jess sits at her desk in the front of the room. A girl student, AMY, sitting in the front row, excitedly raises her hand.

JESS

Yes, Amy.

AMY

Ms. Day, we are wearing the same shoes.

JESS

Oh, that's great, Amy. I must have good style then.

INT. TEACHER'S LOUNGE - DAY

Jess is sitting eating lunch in the teacher's lounge. Another teacher, MRS. CRYSTAL walks by...

MS. CRYSTAL

I just bought that same headband for my daughter. She loves it!

JESS

Ms. Crystal! That's great. Thanks for telling me!

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Jess is walking out of the main doors of the school building into the parking lot. A little girl in a black and red polka dot dress, SIENNA, runs up to her.

SIENNA

Ms. Day! Ms. Day! We're matching. Can we take a picture together?

Sienna's mom comes trailing behind her with her phone ready. Jess tries to keep it together.

JESS

Hi Siena. I am in a huge rush. I really, really, really have to go. I'm so sorry.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. FANCY CLOTHING STORE - DAY

Jess walks into a fancy clothing store and walks up to a saleswoman.

JESS

Hello. Hi. Can you help me find some adult-looking clothes? Because clearly, I dress like I am 10 years old.

SALESWOMAN

This is an adult clothing store. Yes. Just follow me.

JESS

Okay, thank you.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - DAY

Jess looks at herself in the mirror as the saleswoman stands near her. She is wearing a black pants suit with black loafers. She is standing in an awkward position.

JESS

I'll take it.

SALESWOMAN

Are you sure you don't want to try a different, more fitting size?

JESS

No, it's great. Actually, do you have it in any other colors?

INT. SCHMIDT'S ROOM - NIGHT

Schmidt is sitting on his bed. Winston walks in holding a cat, MITTENS, and what looks like a baby diaper bag.

WINSTON

Look what I've got. Mittens the Kitten.

Schmidt shrieks.

SCHMIDT

Oh, um, please don't get too close with that thing.

WINSTON

I borrowed her from Joan, the homeless lady down the street. She even had some accessories for the cat. Her name is Mittens. Isn't she the cutest?

SCHMIDT

Winston. In the nicest way possible, please get that thing out of my room. I just steamed my sheets. It looks filthy.

WINSTON

IT is a SHE. But I'll take her into my room.

In a baby voice.

WINSTON

Say goodbye, Mittens.

Mittens hisses.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jess arrives at the loft wearing the black pants suit she had just bought. Winston sits on the floor with mittens, and Nick sits on the couch.

WINSTON

Jess. Meet Mittens. Isn't she the cutest?

Jess walks right past the kitten.

JESS

I would never play with such a cute and tiny animal. That is so childish.

Nick and Winston share a confused look. Winston follows Jess as she walks into her room.

INT. JESS'S ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Jess slams the door in Winston's face. She grabs a book from the shelf, lies on her bed, and begins reading. As she tries to focus on her book, we hear Winston from outside her door.

WINSTON

Jess, Jess. Come out and play.

JESS

No, I am reading a book about the ebbs and flows of the stock market.

WINSTON

Jess. Come on. Mittens is so cute. I just gave her a bath. She smells like lavender and honey and cuteness.

Jess is intrigued, but she doesn't give in.

JESS

No, go away.

WINSTON

But we're having so much fun. I just love looking at her tiny, tiny paws.

We can see Jess's face that it takes everything in her not to get up to play.

JESS

GO AWAY, WINSTON.

Jess gets up, turns off the light, and goes into bed, stuffing a pillow over her head.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. KITCHEN - DAY 2

Jess walks into the kitchen wearing a navy-blue pants suit and high heels. She goes to pour herself a cup of coffee.

NICK

Jess, I am so confused by the way you're acting.

JESS

Why do you care so much about the way I am acting? All you do is judge me.

NICK

I just don't like the person you are pretending to be. The clothes don't match your personality.

JESS

I am not pretending to be anyone! This is me: an adult! You have so much to say for someone who doesn't go outside during the day. You might as well be a hermit.

NICK

You don't know anything about me, Jess.

JESS

Well, what I do know is that you dress and act like my grandfather.

INT. WINSTON'S ROOM - DAY

Winston is lying on the bed with Mittens. Mittens is wearing a pink sweater and pink tutu. Schmidt walks in.

SCHMIDT

I can't take the cat in that outfit!

WINSTON

You have to keep it! Mittens allergic to the outdoors. Her tutu protects her.

SCHMIDT

Ew. Natasha's going to think I bought that outfit.

WINSTON

So what? If she finds out you're lying, she's gonna hate you anyway.

SCHMIDT

Fine. Just give it to me.

Winston puts Mittens in the carrying case and hands it to Schmidt. Schmidt grabs the bag, keeping it an arm's length away from his body.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Natasha is sitting on a park bench with her cat on her lap. Schmidt walks up and sits next to her.

NATASHA

Awww. Look at this little girl. She's the cutest.

SCHMIDT

Her name is Mittens. Mittens the Kitten.

NATASHA

Oh! So sweet.

Schmidt stares into her eyes.

SCHMIDT

So, tell me about you, Natasha.

EXT. PARK - AN HOUR LATER

NATASHA

I actually thought you were going to be one of those "player" guys at first. But, honestly, I think it's so

attractive when men care about animals. The dress and tutu are a nice touch.

SCHMIDT

I mean, I dressed her myself. The vet told us she's allergic to outside. I take her once or twice a week. I just wouldn't want anything to ever happen to her, ya know?

NATASHA

No, I completely understand.

Natasha looks down to pet Mittens and gasps.

NATASHA

Schmidt, um, Mittens is gone.

SCHMIDT

It's alright, she'll come back. Tell me what else you think is attractive about me.

NATASHA

Schmidt. What about not wanting anything to happen to her? We have to find her!

SCHMIDT

She will be fine!

NATASHA

No, she won't! She's so small.

SCHMIDT

I'm calling Winston.

Picks up the phone to dial Winston. Schmidt speaks into the phone, trying to be quiet.

SCHMIDT

Winston, uh, we might have a problem. You see, the cat is, uh, missing.

The phone hangs up. Schmidt looks around, confused.

NATASHA

Why did you call your friend? We have to find your cat.

Schmidt gets flustered.

SCHMIDT

She's not my cat! I can't look for her. She is disgusting.
A vial-looking rat mammal.

He walks to the park bench, sits down, and puts his head in his hands.

EXT. PARK ENTRANCE - DAY

Winston runs into the park.

NATASHA

Hi, are you Winston?

WINSTON

Yes, where's Schmidt? The cat... I mean, uh, his cat is missing.

NATASHA

I know she's not his. But I can help you look for her.

WINSTON

Alright, thanks. I'm just upset. Cats are the best animals,
the greatest gift to the planet.

Winston begins to cry. Natasha gives him a hug. He puts his head on her shoulder.

NATASHA

It's okay. We're going to find her. Let's go look.

They begin to walk away when Jess approaches them in her pants suit.

JESS

Winston. What's wrong? I saw you crying from the street.

WINSTON

Mittens went missing. Not that you would care.

JESS

Oh my gosh. Oh my gosh. Oh my gosh. Let's find her.

Jess immediately goes into action. She takes off her high heels and starts to crawl on the ground.

JESS

Meow... Meow... Meow.

Mittens meows from behind a bush.

JESS

Oh my gosh. I found her.

Jess starts talking in a baby voice.

JESS

You are the cutest girl. I was so scared that you were gone.

She jumps up and down.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Winston, Jess, and Natasha all arrive back at the loft. Jess leaves the room.

NATASHA

I think it's so attractive how much you cared about Mittens today.

WINSTON

Really? I was going to apologize for crying.

NATASHA

No, no. I seriously thought you were amazing.

WINSTON

Would you maybe want to go out sometime? I don't have a cat, but I would love to see you again.

NATASHA

Yes. Same time next week. Here's my number.

Winston hands Natasha his phone, so she can put her number in.

WINSTON

We won't lose any cats next time.

Natasha exits.

INT. NICK'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jess walks into Nick's room, surprised to find him in loose trousers, a button-up, suspenders, and high socks.

JESS

Nick! you look just like my grandpa!

NICK

That's what I was going for.

Jess sits down next to Nick.

NICK

Heard you stole the show today in finding the cat.

JESS

Yes, and all I had to was be myself to find her.

NICK

Jess, I'm sorry if I made you upset. You do dress and act like a little kid. But that's what makes you special. That's how you get things done. You're a cute little kid.

JESS

Did you just call me cute?

NICK

Ugh. No.

JESS

Yes, you did. But you're the cutest grandpa I've ever had.

NICK

Okay, way to make it weird.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

Winston arrives at the park with Mittens in his arms. He finds Schmidt still sitting on the bench. He goes and sits next to him.

WINSTON

Dude. What are you still doing here?

SCHMIDT

I'm surprisingly upset. I messed up big.

WINSTON

Well, that's what happens when you lie. You're never going to meet someone genuine unless you're being genuine.

SCHMIDT

I just don't know how.

WINSTON

You can teach me how to be more smooth, and I can teach you how to be real. We'll work on it.

Mittens meows.

SCHMIDT

For real, where did you get the cat?

WINSTON

Let's go bring her back. Joan probably misses her.

They get up and start walking.

WINSTON

Wanna hold her?

SCHMIDT

Sure.

Schmidt holds Mittens, and she meows.

SCHMIDT

She is actually pretty cute.

Mittens hisses.

SCHMIDT

AH! Take her back!

Winston laughs. Off them...

END OF SHOW

