

ANOTHER HIGH SCHOOL SITCOM

Written by

Sarah de Leon

Sarah de Leon
Sarahdeleon1616@gmail.com
Www.sarahdeleon.com

EXT. OLDTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

First day commotion surrounds the quaint New England high school with excited, albeit hormonal energy.

SONG #1 - A POP SONG. A new pair of shoes walks - *almost dances* - to the beat of the song with a pep in it's step.

The shoes belong to LAUREN (14), fresh meat slathered in optimism, as she walks up to face her future. The song is coming from her I-PHONE.

She begins to harmonize to the song. *She's good.*

Lauren looks up at the school and takes it all in.

A SOCCER BALL comes out of nowhere and **SMACKS** Lauren in the face, cutting the music abruptly as her earphones fall out.

KATIE (14) and TED (14) run up to her, failing at their attempts to not laugh. They are synchronized high school sweethearts attached at the lips.

TED

I am sooooo sorry Lauren. I thought you heard me shout 'Heads Up!'.

KATIE

You alright, Superstar?

Lauren winces as she feels her reddened cheeks.

LAUREN

I thought I told you not to call me that?

She shoves the ball roughly into Ted's arms. He has given up on trying not to laugh.

Katie sets her SAXOPHONE CASE on the ground to help pick up Lauren's textbooks.

KATIE

But then how will people know you're our superstar?

Lauren scoffs, but there is a hint of amusement in her look that assures us these people are, in fact, her best friends in the whole world.

The three friends fall into step as they approach their destiny. Much like Dorothy, the Scarecrow, and the Tinman - they embrace their uncertain future together.

INT. CLOSE-UP'S ON THE NOTEWORTHY CHOIR AS THEY PERFORM

SONG #2: The beginning chords of an UPBEAT, CATCHY SONG can be heard.

It's an impressive song, too. Lots of harmonies and intricate rifts. It's being sung live by NOTEWORTHY - the school's Choir.

As the song plays, we only see short snippets of the performers as they sing their hearts out.

SUPER: The Names of Each Character as they're introduced

We start with the SOPHOMORES

GINGER (15) a frumpy shy girl with striking red hair.

STRAWBERRY (15) a Goth girl. She has to keep blowing highlighted bangs out of her face.

HEATHER (15) a Tomboy that everyone assumes is a lesbian.

& CHASE (16) in a BACK BRACE, a crippled jock who can't play sports anymore.

Then we meet the JUNIORS

KYLE (16) Is a playboy extraordinaire who looks like a Backstreet Boy. He stumbles on a dance move because he was checking out the girl in front of him.

LILY (16) The girl who owns the ass that was distracting Kyle. She is a VERY peppy ex-drama student.

JORDAN (16) A girl in a punk rock band. She forgot her outfit and is wearing a rock T-Shirt. She has a mini solo. We learn she can BELT.

& LEO (17) He's gay but not in a cliché flashy way. He just has that sort of bold, cheeky confidence.

And finally, the SENIORS

HECTOR (17) A charming boy-next-door sort of guy. He can't stop looking over at --

-- AMELIA (17). She's a fashionable diva who, even when in uniform, you can tell she knows how to accessorize.

Next to Amelia is MELANIE (18). With looks like a Victoria Secret's model- she is very confident, albeit ditsy, woman.

There's ALEX (18), talented and extremely good looking. He's an aspiring actor with that 'IT' factor.

And last but absolutely not least...

There's PEYTON (17). She steps up front for a solo and she *nails it*. This girl was made to be on the stage and she - and everyone around her - knows it.

Noteworthy may be a lot of things but there's one thing for certain: they are a talented bunch.

The song ends with a grand climax. The choir stands still in their final poses.

Their ending is met with a round of applause.

CUT TO:

INT. BASKETBALL COURT - A CLUB FAIR

The audience consists of teachers and a handful of students.

The choir takes a proud, coordinated bow.

Peyton steps out of alignment.

PEYTON

Alright everyone, take five then we go again!

Everyone immediately races to their water bottles.

Peyton belts out a few notes. *Note notes. Not musical notes.*

PEYTON (CONT'D)

Ginger, you were flat in the first verse.

(Pause)

Ginger....

Ginger chugs water. She finally stops to pipe up.

GINGER

Got it!

PEYTON

Lily you were standing out. *Again*. You're not in a musical - work on blending in more.

LILY

Note taken!

PEYTON

Leo -

Leo looks up, appalled that she might have something bad to say.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

- Nice job on those high notes.
Those lessons are paying off.

Leo relaxes and winks at her.

LEO

Thanks, girl. Been working hard on them. Nice tan!

PEYTON

Aw, you think so? I've been working hard on it.

Peyton is about to join her club but then remembers something.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

Oh, and Jordan.

Jordan winces.

JORDAN

I know, I know. I'm sorry. I left my outfit at band practice.

PEYTON

Don't let it happen again.

Peyton finally sits down next to Alex and Melanie.

Amelia is at the SOCCER booth so she can make out with her boyfriend, DEREK (18) - the school's soccer star.

Hector looks at her longingly.

Alex puts his hand over Peyton's and kisses her cheek.

ALEX

You did great, babe.

PEYTON

Thanks...

Peyton is distracted as she looks over at the DRAMA CLUB where a larger crowd has gathered around the IMPROV TEAM.

CLAIRE (17), the President of the Drama Club, stands at the edge of the large group of freshmen looking proud and smug.

She looks at Peyton and sticks her tongue out.

Peyton flips her off.

ALEX

Ignore her. She's trying to piss you off.

PEYTON

And it's working.

ALEX

Yeah, but don't let her know that.

Alex hands her a water bottle.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Hydrate.

PEYTON

Our audience barely had any freshmen in it. I'm worried no one is going to show up to auditions....

Peyton chugs down her water and fixates on the empty space in front of the choir section where she hoped excited freshmen would be. For a brief moment we see her confidence break.

Meanwhile...

Lauren stands off to the side out of Peyton's view, humming the song that Noteworthy just finished performing.

INT. DAYDREAM

Lauren is in Noteworthy's uniform, singing her heart out.

She's beyond happy as she sings her own encore version of the song we just heard.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY:

Ted, once again, ruins Lauren's groove as he waves her down.

TED

Yo, Lauren! There you are. I was gonna check out the soccer booth then grab some snacks for me and Katie Kat. You want anything?

Lauren snaps out of it.

LAUREN
Yeah! Coming!

Lauren takes note of the giant SIGN next to the choir :

ACAPELLA AUDITIONS IN CHOIR ROOM TOMORROW! 4-6

EXT. HALLWAYS- AFTERNOON

Lauren is in the hallway with a pen in her shaking hand.

In front of her is the choir's AUDITION SIGN-UP SHEET.

Only a few names have been scribbled on the piece of paper including 'BATMAN' in big, bold letters. Someone else has written 'MELANIE HAS A NICE ASS' at the top of the page.

Lauren is about to sign up for the last slot: 5:55.

She stops and switches to 4:15.

Then 4:45.

She wipes sweat from her forehead and settles for 5:00.

Right as she's about to write her name, she stops.

She reaches into her purse and pulls out a GLITTER GEL PEN.

In big, loopy letters she writes 'Lauren Vanevery'.

She steps back to admire her handiwork.

FOOTSTEPS can be heard around the corner.

PEYTON (O.S)
I'll catch you guys in a sec! I
just wanna check the sign up sheet!

AMELIA
Hurry up! The store closes at 6!

Lauren speed walks out of frame and is replaced by Peyton.

Peyton groans when she looks at the sheet.

She grabs a SHARPIE from her purse and crosses out 'Batman'.

She is about to cross out 'Melanie has a nice ass' but then she stops.

She looks around to make sure no one is around and writes something instead.

The sign now says '*Melanie and Peyton has a nice ass*'

INT. CHOIR ROOM - NEXT AFTERNOON

CUE: SONG #3 - A REMIX OF SEVERAL SONGS

Peyton, Melanie, and Amelia sit at the front of the choir room, ready to audition people.

The following sequence will be a series of people auditioning for Choir. Each person sings a different song that when cut and strung together, it sounds like a cool mash-up.

The following people audition:

DEXTER (14): A really dorky looking guy. In spite of his looks, he's surprisingly good.

JAMES (13): Very young and very short but super confident. He's a belter.

These two freshmen will ultimately make it into Noteworthy so whenever it cuts away to the 'judges', they are impressed. Towards the end of their songs, the judges will 'circle' their names on the sign up sheet.

JASMINE (13): A wannabe opera singer. She can hold a pitch but otherwise...her voice does not belong in a choir.

VICTORIA (14): You feel for her because she came up with a whole matching dance routine and everything. She's not awful but she's not great, either.

TYLER (14): He beatboxes. That's it. The judges keep waiting for him to finally sing but the entire time he auditions, all he does is beatbox.

These three freshmen will not make it in. When it cuts to the 'judges', they try their best to keep a professionally neutral expression. Their names will be crossed out.

CUT WITH:

INT. BATHROOM

Lauren is practicing. She's even more nervous than she was at the beginning. She sings a few notes.

Her song also fits in with the remix, but in a different way.

She paces, nervous, as she sings.

She's just as good as we remember her. Bold. Beautiful. Talented.

Strong.

She looks at her watch: 4:56

Lauren looks at herself in the mirror.

LAUREN

Okay Lauren...you can do this.
You're a superstar.

She fixes her lipstick and then walks out of the bathroom.

After the door closes behind Lauren, a COUPLE can be found hiding in one of the stalls.

GUY

Do you think she knows we were in here?

GIRL

Just shut up and kiss me.

INT. CHOIR ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Peyton runs her finger down the list until it gets to Lauren's name.

PEYTON

Lauren Vanevery.

Lauren pops her head around the corner and sheepishly enters the room.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

Height?

LAUREN

Um, hi! I'm Lauren. Of course, you knew that already...

PEYTON

No, I said Height????

LAUREN

E-excuse me?

AMELIA
We're just curious about your
height, dear.

LAUREN
Um.... 5'3''?

Peyton jots that down.

Lauren just stands there.

PEYTON
Well?

LAUREN
Um...

Lauren licks her lips.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
Um, actually, can I just -

She runs over to a water fountain.

Peyton, Amelia, and Melanie turn and watch as Lauren takes
several huge gulps of water.

Peyton clears her throat, annoyed.

Her pen is lingered over Lauren's name. If you didn't know
any better, you'd think that she's getting ready to strike
through it.

Lauren returns to the center of the room.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
Okay, sorry. I'm ready.

She opens her mouth to sing and...

...She coughs instead.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
Heh -

Lauren tries to open her mouth again. Nothing.

Peyton stifles a yawn.

MELANIE
Are you okay?

LAUREN
Yeah, I'm fine. I'm just -

She can't seem to form the words.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
- Um, sorry. I have...

PEYTON
Stage fright.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
Stage...yeah. That.

PEYTON
Thank you for coming in today.

Peyton draws a line through Lauren's name.

Lauren can't get out of the room fast enough.

INT. BATHROOM

Lauren runs into a stall and HURLS.

She slopes her head against the toilet, defeated.

INT. CHOIR ROOM

The door shuts behind Lauren.

AMELIA
Poor girl...

PEYTON
Poor girl? Poor US. Look.

Peyton holds up the LEGAL PAD that only has two circled names.

MELANIE
I mean, maybe there will -

Peyton holds up her hand.

PEYTON
I can't do optimism right now
Melanie. Thanks, though.

Peyton sinks in her chair.

Melanie and Amelia rub her back.

PEYTON (CONT'D)
The club is doomed after we
graduate, isn't it?

AMELIA
Not doomed. Just...

MELANIE
Unbalanced.

AMELIA
Yes. That. Unbalanced. But it won't
always be that way.

Peyton hugs Amelia. Melanie joins in on the group hug.

PEYTON
You promise?

Peyton holds up her pinky.

Amelia and Melanie wrap their pinkies around hers.

AMELIA	MELANIE
I promise	I promise

The girls hold each other close.

MELANIE (CONT'D)
I don't know if this helps, but
there's a chance I won't graduate.
So. We'll only be losing 4 seniors
instead of 5.

Amelia and Peyton don't know whether to laugh or cry or hit
their friend.

PEYTON
Melanie. I hope you're just
kidding.

AMELIA
Yeah, sweetie. Don't worry. You're
gonna graduate.

MELANIE
No guys, I'm super serious right
now. There's a chance I won't
graduate. My grades are... less
than good.

The girls go back into sad mode. Peyton squeezes Melanie's
hands.

PEYTON
We're not walking without you.
We're gonna make sure you graduate.

Melanie holds her pinky up.

MELANIE
Pinky promise?

The girls laugh and once again, squeeze each other's pinkies.

INT. CHOIR ROOM - NEXT DAY

We meet Noteworthy in their natural habitat. They're a rag-tag group of people that wouldn't be friends if not for their one shared hobby.

Jordan is in the corner strumming her GUITAR and quietly humming to herself. She smiles and jots some lyrics down in her journal.

Hector makes an inaudible joke that makes Amelia and Melanie bend over laughing.

Amelia holds onto his shoulder and you can see his goosebumps.

Kyle tries to talk to Lily but she's reading HAMLET.

He moves on to Strawberry and Ginger, but Strawberry is drawing, and Ginger just ignores him.

Finally he comes across Heather who is just sitting there silently, but he doesn't say anything to her.

Chase is listening to music with his eyes closed and his head slumped against the wall.

Leo is doing warm ups.

The *second* Peyton walks in, everyone immediately shuffles to their spots on the bleachers.

PEYTON
Hey gang, we have two new members
joining us today. We have James,
our new 3rd tenor.

James stands up and waves.

JAMES
Really happy to -

PEYTON (CONT'D)
- Not the time, James

JAMES
Yup, okay.

James sits back down.

PEYTON

And then there's Dexter, our new
2nd bari.

Dexter does a sort of half-stand / half-sit movement.

DEXTER

H-Hi.

Ginger and Strawberry look up and are immediately awestruck
by Dexter.

In their eyes, he's basically a Disney Prince.

PEYTON

Awesome. Now let's say a wonderful
'Hi' to Coach Jensen - our great
supervisor.

JAMES

We have a supervisor?

Everyone laughs. Alex gestures to the back wall.

ALEX

Eh, sort of.

Peyton knocks on the door to an office.

A hand that belong to a very tired, muscular COACH JENSEN
waves from the window and then falls back down.

PEYTON

Now stand

Everyone stands.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

Warm ups.

Kyle opens up to a page in a WARM UP BOOK and shows Dexter
where to sing.

Peyton lifts up her hands and begins to conduct.

**SONG #4: This is going to be the THEME of the series. We
start with the Baritones singing a C. Then the Tenors. Then
the Altos. And finally, the sopranos including Peyton.**

**They start to sing a very melodic song that sounds both fun,
catchy, and operates as a good vocal warm up for the group.**

Peyton smiles. This is where she belongs.

EXT. OLD TOWN HIGH SCHOOL - SAME TIME

Katie, Lauren, and Ted are sitting around sharing SNACKS.

Katie is sitting on Ted's lap as they feed each other food. They're so cute it hurts.

They share a kiss and could've probably locked their lips for quite some time but a sharp ALARM interrupts them.

KATIE

Whelp. My first Marching practice... Wish me luck, fellas.

Katie gives Simon one last kiss and blows one to Lauren.

Lauren pretends it hits her in the eye.

Lauren then blows a kiss to Katie. Katie pretends it hits her in the stomach.

TED

I should go, too.

LAUREN

Aw, I thought soccer started next week?

TED

It does, but me and some of the other freshmen on the team were gonna grab some grub.

LAUREN

Oh...

TED

Um, you can come if you want? Some of them might be bringing their girlfriends so I mean, I'm sure it -

LAUREN

- Just go.

TED

You sure?

Lauren shoos him away. He makes a face as if to say "I'm so sorry for leaving you" before grabbing his backpack.

Lauren lies back on the grass and sighs.

Another SOCCER BALL hits her. She groans and grabs it.

The tenors join in. Peyton gestures to her ears and mouths
"LISTEN"

PEYTON (CONT'D)
2nd Altos

The 2nd altos join in.

PEYTON (CONT'D)
And the 1sts.

The 1st altos join.

PEYTON (CONT'D)
2nd sopranos.

The 2nd sopranos join. Peyton doesn't even say the last one. She, Amelia, and Melanie immediately join in to complete the melody.

Peyton smiles wide and nods in approval.

PEYTON (CONT'D)
Good. Now the chorus! And -

As they sing the chorus, a brand new spirit has been lifted into the room and suddenly, they are more than just high schoolers.

They are a true choir.

EXT. CHOIR ROOM - SAME TIME

Lauren is kicking a CAN around, humming to herself.

She's listening to music but it's inaudible. There is no pep in her step.

Suddenly, she stops.

She pulls her earphones out and listens to the choir as they sing the chorus of the song.

She smiles. She knows this song. She starts to bop along.

The pep is back in her step as she begins to softly sing.

And then louder.

And suddenly, she is singing as loud as the choir.

INT. CHOIR ROOM - SAME TIME

Peyton is grooving and when Lauren's voice joins the mix it is as if all is balanced.

Peyton closes her eyes, enjoying this moment, but then she realizes something.

She beckons for the choir to stop.

Everyone stops, but they can all still hear Lauren outside of the room.

EXT. CHOIR ROOM - SAME TIME

Lauren continues to sing the 1st soprano part of the song. She's grooving to the music and dancing a little, feeling the rhythm.

INT. CHOIR ROOM - SAME TIME

Peyton walks towards the sound. She opens the door and peers outside.

EXT. CHOIR ROOM - SAME TIME

Lauren does not notice Peyton peeking her head outside, watching her sing.

Peyton leans against the door, listening to Lauren.

PEYTON
Hey, you. Lauren, right!?

Lauren stops. Mortified.

She dares to turn around and nod.

LAUREN
Yeah. Hi.

PEYTON
Come here for a sec.

Lauren inches over so she's closer to Peyton.

Peyton looks her over.

PEYTON (CONT'D)
You're interrupting practice.
Please stop singing.

Peyton closes the door in her face.

Everyone remains silent as Peyton takes her spot back in the middle of the room.

PEYTON.
Good. Back to verse 16.
One...two...

INT. CHOIR ROOM - LATER

Peyton dusts off the bleachers as everyone trickles out.

Amelia, Melanie, Hector and Alex hang back.

PEYTON
Yeah guys? What's up?

MELANIE
Um, we wanted to talk to you about
the girl who was singing.

PEYTON
What about her?

Peyton doesn't look up from dusting.

AMELIA
She was...really really good.

MELANIE
And we think maybe we can work with
her stage fright.

ALEX
We have to. I think we need her.

Peyton pauses. She sits down to think. Then she gets incredibly frustrated and walks away in a huff.

Alex is about to take off after her but the girls stop him.

AMELIA
She needs time to think.

HECTOR
So just how bad was this stage
fright?

Melanie and Amelia give each other a look and their shared silence says it all.

EXT. OLD TOWN HIGH SCHOOL - LATER

Lauren sits alone, humiliated and defeated.

She receives a TEXT.

PEYTON (TEXT)

It's Peyton. Meet me in front of
choir room tomorrow after school.
3:55 Sharp.

Melanie grins and does a really weird victory dance.

EXT. CHOIR ROOM - NEXT AFTERNOON

Peyton is waiting outside.

As soon as Lauren walks up, she pulls her aside.

PEYTON

Alright, Vanevery. Listen up.

LAUREN

I'm listening.

PEYTON

Don't talk

LAUREN

Okay, I won't -

PEYTON

The people in there work very hard.
Very very hard. Monday through
Friday. 4-6. Every week. I will not
put all of their sacrifices at risk
because of your stage fright.

Lauren opens her mouth to say something but then swallows it
back up. Instead, she nods.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

Do you want to be in this choir?

Lauren nods.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

Then every Saturday morning you
will meet with me at 9 AM sharp
until we work on getting your stage
fright under control. Understood?

Lauren nods again.

PEYTON (CONT'D)
Do not make me regret making you a
member of Noteworthy.

Lauren nods quickly, a grin forming on her excited face.

PEYTON (CONT'D)
Promise me that you will do
everything you can to leave your
fears and puke off the stage so you
can sing the way I heard you
yesterday.

Peyton waits impatiently.

PEYTON (CONT'D)
You can talk now.

LAUREN
I promise.

Peyton holds out her pinky. She beckons for Lauren to do the
same.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
Are-are you serious?

PEYTON
Very

Lauren holds up her pinky.

PEYTON (CONT'D)
Pinky promise.

LAUREN
Yeah. Pinky Promise.

They link pinkies.

PEYTON
Good. And remember, if you go back
on your word I get to cut your pink
off.

Peyton sounds dead serious. She heads to the door and Lauren
follows her.

LAUREN
You're -you're kidding, right?

INT. CHOIR ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Peyton enters the room.

Everyone shuffles to their seats and quiets down.

PEYTON
 Alright, we have another new
 member. Everyone - Lauren Vanevery.

Lauren walks into the choir room.

She gives a tiny wave.

She's about to open her mouth to say something. James catches her eyes and shakes his head quickly.

She closes her mouth and just heads over to the Soprano section.

Amelia and Melanie greet her with open arms. They immediately show her where to stand.

Peyton lifts up her hands.

PEYTON (CONT'D)
 Alright. Let's begin -

THE THEME AGAIN: Baritones. Tenors. Altos. And then...

Lauren locks eyes with Peyton.

She still can't sing.

Peyton stops everyone with a flick of her wrists.

Silence.

Peyton groans.

PEYTON (CONT'D)
 Vanevery. Take a step back.

Lauren steps back.

PEYTON (CONT'D)
 Turn around

Lauren turns around.

PEYTON (CONT'D)
 Good?

Lauren holds up her thumb to say: 'We're good'

PEYTON (CONT'D)

Good. Again.

Baritones. Tenors. Altos. And then...

Sopranos.

A perfect balance.

Everyone watches Peyton as she conducts.

Lauren has her back turned. She has to follow Peyton by looking at a mirror's reflection.

Okay so it's not perfect. But it's a start.