

CATCH WITH HONEY

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. EZRA'S ROOM - MORNING

The pristine room is cluttered with papers, print-outs, and notebook paper, as EZRA, (18), a black high school student is sitting right in the middle of the mess. The perfectly pastel blue walls surround her as she types away at her laptop. Her eyes flicker from her laptop, then to her notebook as she furiously scribbles down notes regarding the latest news.

Suddenly, there's a loud KNOCK at Ezra's door. She is awoken from her research trance.

An older woman saunters in. This is SANDRA, (54), Ezra's number one fan, and the woman who birthed her.

SANDRA

(giggling)

I just came to check if you were awake, but I don't know why I bother anyway.

EZRA

You know I'm committed to this broadcast. I want to give my viewers the freshest and most topical news. I can't do that if I do it all the night before.

SANDRA

You're right, I know. I'm so proud of you, you know? I bet all the kids at school are so grateful for your work.

EZRA

Yeah, I think they all love it. So does my production team. We are all just really devoted to the craft.

Ezra checks her laptop.

EZRA (CONT'D)

I have to get to school to set up!
Love you mom.

Ezra walks out the door.

SANDRA

Love you too!

The bedroom door SLAMS.

Then, the door opens back up.

EZRA

Ouch. My bad.

Ezra slowly closes the door.

EXT. CITY STREET - MORNING

Ezra fast walks towards the house across from hers. She checks the windows to see if anybody is in there. She quickly sprints to the front door and steals their newspaper, shoves it in her forest green backpack, and is on her way.

INT. SCHOOL BROADCASTING ROOM - DAY

CU on a broadcast camera. There are hands fiddling with the tripod. **ZOOM OUT** to reveal Ezra setting up the camera. She breathes heavily on the camera lens to fog it up, then wipes it off with her cashmere sweater. She centers herself in front of the camera, looking to the television on her right. She smiles at the camera, looks back at the TV to try and catch her smile, then looks back at the camera. Ezra runs to the chair and table in front of her green screen. She sits down at the chair and crosses her hands on the table, keeping a frozen smile in front of the camera. She holds still for a couple seconds, then jumps up rapidly. She sprints to the camera to press the RED button.

Ezra scurries back to her chair and assumes her position again. Her eyes dip down to check her watch as she counts the seconds. Her smile is stuck.

Ezra stares at her watch as it hits 8 am, then her eyes shoot up to the camera as she gives her award-winning smile.

EZRA

Good Monday morning to you all. It is a lovely 47 degrees here in Dayton, Ohio. Ah, Dayton. How could I describe Dayton? I guess I can do that with the local news of this week. Dayton is having their town hall Q&A this Thursday at 6pm. There will be donuts and hot water available. Please come and support democracy.

Ezra looks to find more on her paper.

EZRA (CONT'D)

And, that's all for Dayton. In international news, the Syrian crisis is rampant and citizens are furious. Our government is trying to intervene without exerting too much power.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Ezra's news cast continues on, and shows a classroom where it is playing. As she speaks, the teacher, Mrs. Dolitz, (54), is sitting at her computer reading the newspaper. She is negligent to her rowdy students. They are throwing papers at each other, yelling, and on their phones.

EZRA

And, for school news, don't forget about the bake sale tomorrow. That's all for today on Ezra's End!

The class TV cuts to black, and the rowdiness continues. Mrs. Dolitz suddenly realizes the broadcast is over.

MRS. DOLITZ

Alright kids, alright. Get it together. Time for class.

INT. SCHOOL BROADCASTING ROOM - DAY

Ezra happily packs up her camera, proud of herself for another successful broadcast.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Ezra is sitting with two other friends all eating lunch together. There is REBECCA, (17), who has long blonde hair and a green headband with pearls on. Rebecca is eating a lavish lunch filled with kale, acai berries, quinoa, and other vegan food that is a direct translation for wealthy. There is ALEX, (18), a senior who doesn't like anybody in her class year, so she hangs out with juniors during lunch so she doesn't look like a loner, even though she would love to be eating alone right now. Then there is ALICE, (17), Ezra's favorite friend out of all three. Despite Alice's kindheartedness, she never speaks up for herself or other people.

Ezra chomps down on her ham and cheese sandwich on Wonder bread as the friends chatter.

REBECCA

Guys you know how I've been telling you I have some HUGE news coming?

Everyone looks at one another to see who is going to answer her. Alice takes one for the team.

ALICE

Yeah! Are you going to tell us yet or..?

REBECCA

Well, I could make you guys wait a couple days, but I'll do the honor of telling you now.

Ezra continues to eat her ham and cheese sandwich, not paying attention to Rebecca. Ezra is in her own world. Rebecca notices this and shoots her a glare.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

(through gritted teeth)

Ezra! Are you listening? I'm about to announce my big news.

Ezra looks up.

EZRA

Oh! Sorry. Okay. I'm ready.

REBECCA

Thank you.

Rebecca clears her throat.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

You know how I have been begging my parents for a dog... well we finally got one! 4 month old Labradoodle named Princess. She is precious.

EZRA

That's great, I love dogs. What adoption shelter did you go to? I hear the one on Irving is the best.

REBECCA

Ahah, oh, we bought Princess...

EZRA

Oh interesting. That's too bad because 56% of dogs in animal shelters in the U.S. are euthanized. I thought you would have known that because I did a whole segment on it on my show last week.

Rebecca looks at Alice and Alex as they all try to suppress their giggles.

EZRA (CONT'D)

What?

REBECCA

Ezra, honey. We don't watch that. I'm sorry, we are just way too busy in Mrs. Dolitz's homeroom! How am I supposed to update myself on the latest buzz without going on my phone?

EZRA

Maybe with my broadcast?

REBECCA

Ez, I don't wanna hear about the amount of dead dogs in the country. Sorry.

EZRA

Fine. Well I hope you're happy with Princess.

REBECCA

Oh, thank you, I am! She's beautiful, want to see a pic-

Ezra has stormed off. Rebecca is not phased.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

Oh. Do you guys want to see a picture?

Rebecca is already shoving her phone into Alice and Alex's faces.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Ezra is powerfully walking through the empty hallways while lunch is still going on. As Ezra turns the corner, she runs into Mrs. Dolitz.

MRS. DOLITZ

Ezra, you aren't supposed to be done from lunch yet. Head back in, now.

EZRA

Oh, sorry, I just wanted to get a head start on my next broadcast.

MRS. DOLITZ

Aw, that's cute! Ezra, here's some advice for you, have you considered reading the newspapers? They report on real important stories, you know? Big girl stories! Maybe you could check them out, I know you millenials are ALWAYS on your phones.

EZRA

I read the newspaper every morning, and I report on their stories. Don't you hear?

MRS. DOLITZ

(in a shrill voice)

OH! And if you could, try and make your voice a little less shrill? I just think more people would listen if your voice didn't pain them.

Mrs. Dolitz pulls out her phone and texts.

MRS. DOLITZ (CONT'D)

One second!

Mrs. Dolitz turns away to make a phone call.

Ezra listens in.

MRS. DOLITZ (CONT'D)

(through gritted teeth)

Josh, are you kidding me? Get to school. I just got an email from your principle that you aren't there today. What the hell?

Ezra looks intrigued as her eyebrows perk up.

MRS. DOLITZ (CONT'D)

Josh, I swear to god, if you're-
(hushed voice)
Smoking again..

(MORE)

MRS. DOLITZ (CONT'D)
You're absolutely dead. You're not
a minor anymore. You can go to
JAIL, mister.

Mrs. Dolitz painfully smashes her finger on the END CALL
button. She quickly puts her hair behind her ear while
squinting her eyes at Ezra. She walks off.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Ezra is at the table with her mother and father, DARREL, (58)
an overweight man who hasn't changed his glasses prescription
in 14 years. Ezra is chowing down on the fish sticks with
extra helpings of tartar sauce. There is silence as the
family chews.

SANDRA
So today went well?

EZRA
Oh yeah! It was an awesome day. I
learned-

DARREL
Who decided it was a good idea to
have fish sticks for the fourth day
in a row?

EZRA
Hahah who cares, Dad they aren't
bad!

SANDRA
I did, Darrel. Are you really
complaining about fish sticks right
now?

DARREL
I didn't complain the first time,
the second time, or the third time.
But yeah, on the fourth night, I
will.

SANDRA
I'm sorry that fish sticks are the
only thing in our freezer right
now.

EZRA
Guys, come on, it's no big-

SANDRA

And whose fault do you think that is? Mine? Working two jobs while you sit at home and try and sell your collectibles on eBay?

DARREL

(offended)

I have a 4.3 out of 5 stars rating!

EZRA

(desperately shouting)

Please, it's my fault, I asked mom to get the fish sticks. I just love them so much! Sue me.

DARREL

(completely ignoring Ezra)

You don't even know what it's like to sell away my Beanie Babies online for this family.

EZRA

Yes, I know! You shouldn't have to! I'll get a job and help pay the mortgage!

SANDRA

Ha! Darrel, you're a joke, I'd love for you to spend the day in my shoes.

Darrel and Sandra continue to yell, blocking out all of Ezra's propositions and desperate efforts to mediate. Ezra walks out of the room, then runs back to grab her plate of fish sticks.

INT. SCHOOL BROADCASTING ROOM - DAY

CU on Ezra's hands setting up the camera. She fogs the camera, wipes it, then smiles in it. The usual routine. She remembers to press the RED record button this time, and runs to her desk.

Ezra sits patiently with her hands crossed and buttons up her sweater. Clock ticks. 7:59:55. 56,57,58,59...

EZRA

Good morning fellow classmates and adults responsible for our growth and development! I hope your week has been beautiful and lacking of negative thoughts.

(MORE)

EZRA (CONT'D)
 On today's Ezra's End, I'm deciding
 to do something a little new, a
 little interactive segment.

Ezra pulls a dial phone from below her and plops it on her desk.

EZRA (CONT'D)
 Today, YOU get to decide what I
 talk about! I want to hear your
 opinions, questions, and discuss
 them live! Teachers, now is the
 time to let your kids use their
 phones.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Mrs. Dolitz is reading her newspaper. All the students are already on their phones, laughing. Ezra is talking in the background on the television.

EZRA
 And you'll see a number pop up
 below me...

Ezra presses a button on her remote.

EZRA (CONT'D)
 Viola!

The number "555-867-5309" pops up on the TV screen.

EZRA (CONT'D)
 (enthusiastically)
 Call away!

INT. SCHOOL BROADCASTING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ezra's hard smile continues. Her eyes switch from the camera to the phone every few seconds. She takes a slow sigh through her frozen smile.

INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca is giggling with Alice when she looks up at the screen.

REBECCA
 Oh my god, should we?

ALICE

What do you wanna ask?

Rebecca gives a maniacal smile and dials up the number.

Ezra is shown in the television, the phone rings and she picks it up.

EZRA

Yes, hello! The air is yours. What should I talk about today?

REBECCA

Quick question, maybe could spark some debate. Do you like Good Will or Salvation Army better?

EZRA

Hmm, well I'd have to say-

Rebecca starts cracking up.

EZRA (CONT'D)

Oh, um, neither. I've never been. Sorry. Next caller.

INT. SCHOOL BROADCASTING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ezra slams the phone down.

EZRA

You know what, that is all the time we have for today. I think the phone line must have been backed up with too many calls, thanks for participating guys!

INT. EZRA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ezra is laying on her bed watching videos of Walter Cronkite, Diane Sawyer, and Edward R. Murrow. She stares closely at the CBS and NBC logos. The view count of each video amazes Ezra. There are millions of people watching today. She scans articles with titles like, "How Diane Sawyer got her voice heard," and "How Walter Cronkite shocked the nation."

Ezra's parents are heard in the background. Their yelling voices get louder and louder. Ezra turns up the volume of Diane Sawyer, but it doesn't help. She shuts her laptop.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Sandra and Darrel are separated by the dining room table spouting at each other. Neither of them are giving up anytime soon.

SANDRA

You have the competence of a baby otter, but not nearly as cute.

DARREL

Oh yeah? If I'm incompetent then why am I one of the top rated Cabbage Patch dolls seller on eBay?

SANDRA

Because there's so few of you!

Ezra walks in and stares at them as her eyebrows furrow.

EZRA

Uh guys, can you keep it down? I can't even hear my computer.

SANDRA

And poor Ezra, she's struggling at school and you give her NO help!

EZRA

Struggling? What are you talking about, I'm fine. Hello! Helloooo!

Ezra is invisible.

DARREL

I swear, Sandra, you have no idea the amount of stuff I do that you don't even notice.

EZRA

MOM. DAD.

Ezra takes a deep breath.

EZRA (CONT'D)

I'M PREGNANT!

Sandra and Darrel both become silent. They look at Ezra shocked.

SANDRA

You can't even- WHAT? Ezra, WHAT are you talking about? You aren't, I didn't even talk to you about-

DARREL

This better be a joke, Ezra. Ezra?

Ezra looks at them for a beat.

EZRA

Yes, just a joke. I'm sorry.

Ezra runs upstairs with a mischievous smile.

Sandra gives a weird look to Darrel like, "What the fuck was that?"

INT. EZRA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ezra is sitting on her bed hunched over. She is frantically writing down notes and searching on her computer. She giggles every now and then. She looks up from her notebook and practices speaking to the "camera" in front of her, but we can't hear her.

INT. SCHOOL BROADCASTING ROOM - DAY

Ezra sets up her tripod. She wipes the camera. She looks into the lens and just raises an eyebrow. She hits the red button. She walks to her desk and sits with her arms down.

EZRA

Good morning everybody. Today is a very special day, you'll find out why soon. It is Tuesday, December 4th and here is the breaking news of today.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Mrs. Dolitz's homeroom is full of chatter and kids running around. Mrs. Dolitz is reading the newspaper.

INT. SCHOOL BROADCASTING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

EZRA

This just in, a 4 month old golden retriever puppy was found dead on the side of Old Farm road.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca perks up from her conversation. In the background, Ezra is on the television.

EZRA

They are currently in search of the owners, but the collar revealed the dog's name. If you have a pup named Princess, I'm so very sorry.

Rebecca starts sobbing. She pulls her phone out and starts screaming to her mother.

INT. SCHOOL BROADCASTING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

EZRA

Very, very unfortunate. Anyway, in other news, 18-year-old Marty Dolitz was charged this morning with possession of marijuana.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mrs. Dolitz spits her coffee out, choking on it. She looks up at the TV screen listening. She frantically pulls out her phone to call her son.

INT. SCHOOL BROADCASTING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

EZRA

And, it is the most upsetting for me to deliver this news to the student body but, the Super Crystal Starlight Dance this Friday has been cancelled, as all the money has been allocated to new football uniforms.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Two football players look happily shocked, then high five each other.

Three girls all look at each other in awe and start crying.

The rest of the classroom is staring up at the television in anticipation, waiting for any news that could concern them.

INT. SCHOOL BROADCASTING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

EZRA

And this next breaking news, I'm sure would only concern a slim portion of you, but multiple cases of chlamydia have been confirmed here at Lincoln, so if you've had sexual intercourse in the past month, I highly suggest you get that checked out. Then again, I'm no doctor! But, I'm sure this only concerns a few of you.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Students start flipping out. One girl with an angry look on her face whips her head around to a jock in the back, he looks confused. Everyone begins to uncomfortably grab their crotch.

INT. SCHOOL BROADCASTING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

EZRA

And, my time is almost up! Today was sure a special day full of the most intense breaking news! Be sure to listen in tomorrow. Goodbye.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Ezra walks down the hallway powerfully. Holy shit. She's got the world on a string. As she walks, students run behind her, in front of her, on her side frantically. Everyone is in utter chaos, but Ezra feels pure bliss as she struts.

INT. SCHOOL BROADCASTING ROOM - MORNING

Ezra sets up her camera and tripod. She goes to sit down at her desk, when she sits, and looks up, two teachers are standing beside the camera staring down at her. She nervously fixes her sweater as the clock hits 8 am.

EZRA

Hello Lincoln High, welcome back to Ezra's End.

Ezra takes a breath.

EZRA (CONT'D)
Are you all listening? I hope you
are. Now that I have your
attention...

The glares on the teachers' faces become more menacing.

INT. MRS. DOLITZ'S CLASSROOM - MORNING

Mrs. Dolitz and the rest of her students are silent and
watching Ezra intently, and nervously.

EZRA
...I'd like to get back to my
regularly scheduled news. In
recent, Mongolian pirates have
become increasingly more prominent.
And no, I'm not talking about those
with eyepatches and hooks. Real
pirates.

Students continue watching and listening to Ezra's reports.

FADE TO BLACK.