

Follow the Leader Episode 1.2: "An" Improv Class
Featuring Alix as Persimmon and Grace, Dora as Parker and Marius, Han as Lucent and Kuiper, and Kales as Merrill and Zephyr

Dora: Previously on Follow the Leader...

Dora: We're putting on a show! The lights, the applause! Our goal is to put on a great performance that the audience loves.

[card shuffling noise]

Alix: Um, so "the script is a mess" and [theme music begins in background] "the last show was a disaster", or...?

Dora: Yeah.

[card shuffling noise]

Han: Well, we lose the challenge and lose the character.

Dora: Yeah.

[card shuffling noise]

Dora: Yeah, so Marius just like, throws all of the papers in the trash and goes the fuck home-

Alix: Oh my god.

Dora: -and doesn't come back.

Dora: We now return to your game already in progress.

[theme music plays]

Dora: Okay! So now we get to figure out our next challenge.

Han: I mean, the one that jumps out at me- like, we could do "fix the script", and like... But I feel like we already kind of did... that whole deal.

Alix: Mm-hmm.

Dora: Yeah.

Han: I'm intrigued by "get the critics on our side with a sneak preview".

Dora: Ooh.

Alix: Yeah, that would be good I think.

Han: 'Cause it's definitely still not in a state that anyone should be seeing this show.

Alix: Mm-hmm.

Han: But it is getting down to the wire.

Alix: Mm-hmm.

Dora: Yeah. I dig it. I really dig it.

Kales: Yeah.

Dora: So, what makes it difficult other- well, obviously it not being in a state for anybody to be watching it makes it difficult, but what else makes it difficult?

Kales: Our director is a cryptid. [laughter]

Alix: Yeah.

Kales: So they can't- they can't like, do anything or any interviews or whatever, so it falls to people who it normally wouldn't fall to.

Dora: Oh.

Kales: And delegating that responsibility is... a nightmare.

Alix: Merrill sent the director an email like, "Will you be there?" and the director just responded, "Great!" [laughter]

Kales: Oh, yup! Yup!

Dora: Somebody let Parker in front of an interviewer and uh, it goes about as well as you expect.

Kales: Merrill got the director in the room and they left an hour in to go to a rehearsal for a different show.

Dora: Oh god.

Han: Right.

Kales: That happened to me during a tech week.

Dora: I believe you.

Alix: Oh my god.

Han: Holy shit.

Dora: Okay, perfect. So, Han...

Han: Mm-hmm.

Dora: Who starts here?

Han: Um... Yeah. I think... I mean I think it's Merrill.

Kales: Yeah, that makes sense.

Han: It makes- yeah.

Kales: Um. Okay. So, I want a scene with everyone. I- no. I don't want a scene with Parker.

Dora: Yeah.

Kales: I don't necessarily think Parker needs-

Dora: Yeah.

Kales: -to be there, let me put it that way. I want a scene with Parker. I don't think Parker needs to be there. I don't think Merrill would call Parker. But Merrill's gonna call Persimmon-

Han: What if he was just like, in the room when this meeting was called, and didn't know a good way to excuse himself?

Kales: Yeah. [laughter] That works.

Alix: Yes. [laughs]

Kales: But I think Merrill calls in Lucent and Persimmon, and Parker's just there.

Han: Mm-hmm.

Alix: Maybe Parker... Parker is trying to untangle a big thing of like, string lights.

Kales: Yes. [clap] Trying to- trying to coil extension cords.

Dora: Yes. Everybody's standing next to the door so he can't leave.

Kales: Yup. And she's got them, and she's like,

Kales as Merrill: All right. We're going to... We're going to make this work. We're going to have a meeting. We're going to do a preview with a critic- I know. We're in no shape to be doing a preview with a critic, trust me.

Alix as Persimmon: Ohh god.

Kales as Merrill: [crosstalk] I know-

Han as Lucent: [crosstalk] Some of us aren't.

Kales as Merrill: But. [Alix as Persimmon sighs] We're going to do it. And since the director... is... in Cancun...

Alix as Persimmon: What?

Kales as Merrill: We're going to have to do it ourselves. I got a photo message. That said "Wish you were here!" when I emailed them to tell them about this preview. So, I'm just going to assume, and we're going to make this work. Okay?

Dora as Persimmon: It's really sweet that they thought of us!

Kales as Merrill: Yes, it is very sweet, Parker. [sigh] [another sigh]

Alix as Persimmon: Oh, I just- I feel like my first performance is gonna- I want it to be raw, you know? I want opening night to be opening night. This just doesn't sit right with me.

Han as Lucent: Well, you could always, uh... You know. You don't have to be [trailing off] in this show...

Alix as Persimmon: Have to do what? What?

Han as Lucent: Nothing. I didn't say anything.

Kales as Merrill: It's not going to be anything. It's going to be two audience members at most. It's going to be just like a rehearsal, except... I don't even know if you're going to see him, honestly. Or her. I don't- I don't remember who they're sending. It's not going to feel like a performance.

Alix as Persimmon: Oh, but. Oh. I just don't know. Two people's... I mean, it's frankly more than I expected and I just- No, no, I can handle it, it's fine. It's fine. We've got this, right?

Han as Lucent: Are you sure?

Alix as Persimmon: Yeah. Yes. I'm sure.

Han as Lucent: Because from your tone of voice I'm not sure... you think you can handle it.

Kales as Merrill: Lucent.

Alix as Persimmon: No, this is- this is acting. Um.

Han as Lucent: Oh, I'm aware.

Alix as Persimmon: No, I just, I really [laughs nervously] I really made you think I was nervous, so I think I'm... getting better all the time.

Dora as Parker: Yeah, that was really convincing! I was worried there for a second!

Alix as Persimmon: Oh my god. Oh, you worried about me?

Dora as Parker: Well, I mean of course! We've gotta make this show go great, and I was worried. Like how could we lose one of our actors? It would just be so awful. I mean, at least nobody's gotten injured so far.

Alix as Persimmon: I can't believe you would miss me. Aw.

Han as Lucent: It's not as much of a disaster as you'd think.

Dora as Parker: Oh no, losing somebody's body parts is very disastrous.

Han as Lucent: Oh, I meant losing an actor. But... [laughter]

Kales: I think that's scene. [laughter]

Han: Yup.

Kales: I just- I just want that, in the movie version, that's where it cuts.

Alix: Yeah.

Han: I need you all to know that I've been holding an empty wine glass for the past hour.
[laughter] 'Cause it just feels right.

Kales: It does feel right! It adds a whole dimension to the- it's like, oh that's the wine glass voice.

Han: Mm-hmm.

Dora: Perfect.

Kales: Incredible.

Alix: That was really good.

Han: Okay, fuck, it's my turn, huh?

Dora: Yup.

Kales: Yup!

Alix: Mm-hmm.

Han: Okay. Umm... Hmm. I think I wanna go talk to Grace.

Alix: Okay.

Han: I think it's just Grace.

Alix: Okay.

Han: And I think he probably goes like- does she have an office?

Alix: Um, yeah. I think yeah. I think she has an office, like, down the street from the theater or something.

Han: Mm-hmm.

Alix: Um... Which is part of the reason that she's like, investing in it. She was just like, it would be nice to have theater in my neighborhood.

Han: Right. Okay.

Alix: Is she- she's supposed to be one of the people who went to the preview, or...

Han: Um...

Alix: Do you think?

Han: I mean, I imagine she was invited, yeah. If she's like the...

Alix: Okay. Yeah.

Han: But I think like, this is him pre-preview going to talk to her.

Alix: All right. I'm going to pretend to hold an owl in my hand.

Han: Good. [laughter] As it should be. I'm gonna open the picture of this lady so I can look at her while I'm speaking. [laughter]

Kales: Good!

Han: And her owl.

Alix: Uh-huh.

Han: Okay. He does not bust down this door.

Alix: Okay.

Han: I will put that out there now. He knocks on it.

Alix as Grace: Just a moment. [sighs] All right, come in.

Han as Lucent: Um, hi. Miss, uh...

Han: is it Mitra? That was out of character.

Alix: Yes, yes. [laughter]

Han as Lucent: Ms. Mitra, it's so good to see you.

Alix as Grace: Luc- Lucius, right?

Han as Lucent: Lucent.

Alix as Grace: Oh, I'm so sorry.

Han as Lucent: It's uh... A lot of people get it wrong, it's fine. I just wanted- So, you know, I'm doing the... The show that doesn't have a name yet, you know. I'm sure-

Alix as Grace: Yes, yes.

Han as Lucent: I'm sure you're familiar. I just- I know you're attending the preview? Right?

Alix as Grace: Hold on, hold on, I must respond to this email. Just give me a moment.

Han as Lucent: Okay. Yup. Mm-hmm.

Alix: And she types on her computer for like, five minutes, and is like,

Alix as Grace: Yes, uh, the show without a name. That's not a bad name. Write that down. "The Show Without A Name".

Han as Lucent: Oh-

Alix as Grace: That could get some buzz.

Han as Lucent: Okay, I'll, uh tell the... crew... Um, but no, you are, you are coming to the preview, right?

Alix as Grace: Uh, I'm considering it. I'm a very busy woman.

Han as Lucent: Well... Okay. I just- I wanted to... I just wanted to give you a sort of a heads up before you see it in its current form?

Alix as Grace: Hmm.

Han as Lucent: You know. [spluttering] They're all doing their best, over there, and I- listen, I know that. I support... You know, everyone has to start somewhere. But, you know, some of us are operating on sort of a different level than others, and I just wanted to let you know before you see it that- I don't want this to reflect badly on those of us who are, you know, trying to make this- trying to make this their career.

Alix as Grace: So, are you trying to apologize for your own mistakes, or your crewmates?

Han as Lucent: Um... The latter, mostly. [pause] The latter entirely.

Alix as Grace: You think quite a lot of yourself, don't you?

Han as Lucent: I'm... just being realistic. Isn't it good business practice to know your own worth? I think I read that... somewhere?

Alix as Grace: Hmm. I suppose. Well, [sighs] You've accomplished at least one goal. I will come to the preview. I... am a little worried about the return on my investment, but I assume you will do just an excellent job, won't you, uh, Lucent?

Han as Lucent: Of course. Of course. Um, thank you for, uh, thank you for your time, Ms. Mitra.

Alix as Grace: I hope you will make it worth it.

Han: I think that's scene. [laughter]

Kales: That's good shit.

Alix: I immediately had to release all of my giggles.

Han: Okay. Alix?

Alix: Oh yeah. I guess it is my turn. Okay. I think it should be probably like, right before the preview at this point.

Dora: Mm-hmm.

Alix: I think maybe Persimmon has just like, invited- has like, decided to take matters into their own hands and is like, I'm gonna get a reporter, and like, if we're really gonna do this, then we're gonna do this. Or maybe actually, if I can walk that back, maybe Persimmon has like, decided to try to convince this reporter that it's not worth her time to come. [laughter]

Han: I super wanna do that scene.

Alix: Yes. All right, let's do that, and is just like, well, I have a simple way to do that, which is to show her what a mess it is back here.

Han: Oh my god.

Alix: Okay. Um... So yeah I think Persimmon is leading Kuiper through the worst parts of backstage.

Kales: Oh, so if they're backstage, might Merrill just shout things?

Alix: Yes.

Kales: Good.

Alix: For sure, for sure.

Han: Okay.

Alix as Persimmon: Thanks, um, thanks for coming.

Han as Kuiper: Uh-huh. So is this... Is this like, one of those, like, weird performance art pieces where we're in the show right now? Kind of thing? 'Cause like, I don't... get it. If it is.

Alix as Persimmon: No that would be... really cool actually. What we're doing is, um, much simpler and more boring.

Han as Kuiper: Okay.

Alix as Persimmon: At least right now. We're just- we're really just in such a preliminary stage, you know what I mean? Um...

Han as Kuiper: Yeah...

Alix as Persimmon: Which is- I just- I'm still memorizing all of my lines, you know- well I've memorized them. All of them. I just [crosstalk] need to-

Han as Kuiper: [crosstalk] Don't you open in like four days?

Alix as Persimmon: Okay listen. Let me tell you something about theater. Do you know a lot about theater?

Han as Kuiper: Um, my- my girlfriend took me to see Jersey Boys once, when it was up at the uh, you know, that- the big theater.

Alix as Persimmon: Oh, Jersey Boys is terrible. Listen.

Han as Kuiper: I thought it was pretty good.

Alix as Persimmon: Theater isn't theater until opening night. It- we need every single second of our production time to perfect- listen, I know how to control all the muscles in my eyebrows, okay? Acting is really hard, and we're just not ready yet. For it.

Han as Kuiper: Okay...

Kales as Merril: Betty, Betty, how many times do I have to tell you, don't use magic to hang the lights! Please! Please!

Han as Kuiper: Is that... standard?

Alix as Persimmon: No, it's... really unprofessional and unstandard and just- I'm sure we'll have that worked out by opening night though, won't we? Merril?

Kales as Merril: Yes. We most certainly will. No, no no no no, don't put the projector there! Don't put the projector there!

Kales: And she just runs away.

Alix as Persimmon: Merril is who's supposed to be making sure everything is going smoothly, and look at her. You see, she's so- she's so freaked out right now. That's not acting. She's not even an actor.

Han as Kuiper: Okay, um, so, am I gonna get to see the show? 'Cause... I kinda need to see the show. Are you-

Alix as Persimmon: You can see the show opening night?

Han as Kuiper: Well-

Alix as Persimmon: That would be the optimal time to see it.

Han as Kuiper: Well, I mean it... The story has to go out before the show opens. That's... How much do you know about my job?

Alix as Persimmon: I- I don't know- What is your job? Is it like...

Han as Kuiper: Okay, well normally I write the obituaries but Kendra's out on maternity leave [laughter] and she's, she's the one who does, like, the art critic stuff. She knows- she knows things about this, but she's out, and I was the only one who wasn't super busy, so they put me on it. But I do have to write this before the show opens.

Alix as Persimmon: Well that's- I mean, do you write the obituaries before the people die?

Han as Kuiper: Well no, those aren't- [crosstalk] they're not the same thing. It's not the same-

Alix as Persimmon: [crosstalk] It's the same thing. It is the same thing.

Han as Kuiper: -not the same thing.

Alix as Persimmon: It's pretty- it's the same- theater is really related to death. If you think about it.

Han as Kuiper: That's great. I still have to write this damn column. So I can get paid.

Alix as Persimmon: You can't push it back?

Han as Kuiper: No.

Alix as Persimmon: All right. Okay.

Han as Kuiper: Listen I get it. I can... I'll... I can- I can put a positive spin on it, if that's what this whole thing is about. If that's what you need.

Alix as Persimmon: Do you think that will make more people come to the show?

Han as Kuiper: I mean, it couldn't hurt.

Alix as Persimmon: Well then, maybe you shouldn't do that... Listen, fine, you can come to the preview, just like, just- could you just, not bring anybody?

Han as Kuiper: Well I wasn't planning on it. That's...

Alix as Persimmon: Well I just- you know. You might- you have a girlfriend, you might bring her on a date. This is a terrible date idea. Don't do it.

Han as Kuiper: Duly noted. Um... Listen, are... are you okay?

Alix as Persimmon: Uh... Um... Acting is just... hard. You know?

Han as Kuiper: Yeah, I'm getting that impression.

Alix as Persimmon: And I just- we just have no time for anything and just, so...

Han as Kuiper: Well hey. Hey. I'm gonna go, so you... So I don't waste anymore of your time, and I will be there at the preview, and... I'll-

Alix as Persimmon: Alone.

Han as Kuiper: -do my best to write up something... nice about the show. Okay?

Alix as Persimmon: But not too nice.

Han as Kuiper: Not too nice... Okay. You know what listen, that's fine.

Alix as Persimmon: Okay.

Han as Kuiper: Okay, well I'll see you at the preview, I guess.

Alix as Persimmon: Well I won't talk to you 'cause I'll be on the stage, like acting.

Han as Kuiper: Right. Oh- okay. Um... Yeah. Break a leg? Is that what- [crosstalk] that is what you guys say, right?

Alix as Persimmon: [crosstalk] That is what they say. Yeah.

Dora as Persimmon: No please don't break any legs! [laughter]

Han: That's scene. [more laughter]

Kales: Oh my god.

Alix: This is bad.

Kales: It's so bad! Oh...

Dora: Okay, um, so... I definitely want a scene with Zephyr.

Kales: Yeah!

Dora: But, I kind of want Kuiper to be there. Like I kind of want Kuiper [crosstalk] to bump into Parker-

Han: [crosstalk] Okay! Yeah!

Dora: And I want Zephyr to also be there.

Han: Yes.

Dora: Um, so...

Kales: Zephyr's been in every scene, and no one has noticed. [laughter]

Dora: All right, J. K. Rowling. [laughter]

Han: Oh my god.

Kales: Don't ever say that to me again.

Alix: Zephyr- Zephyr has been gay this whole time. [laughter]

Han: That's probably true.

Dora: Yeah.

Alix: Yeah, that's probably true.

Dora: I mean...

Han: Okay. Yeah sure, Kuiper's there.

Dora: Yeah, so Kuiper's probably walking out, and probably Parker is trying to transport something and is not paying attention and bumps right into her. And, uh, is she holding anything?

Han: Um... No, I don't think so. I also wanna make it very clear that she is played by like, the grimmest version of Kristen Stewart that exists. Just to like, paint a better picture here.

Dora: God, I'm gay.

Han: It's very important to me.

Alix: [crosstalk] Yeah, fair.

Kales: [crosstalk] Me too.

Alix: We're all-

Dora: Um. Anyway, I'm sorry, I just had to take a moment to-

Han: Anyway.

Dora: -appreciate that. Um... [laughter]

Han: Yeah no, I don't think she's holding anything.

Dora: Okay, so that means Parker just like, drops every single thing that he's ever held in his life. Um...

Han: Mm-hmm.

Dora: And is like,

Dora as Parker: Oh, I'm so sorry. Excuse me. I'll- I'll get that up just- just please don't step on that. Um. Sorry.

Han as Kuiper: Okay, are you... are you all right?

Dora as Parker: Um, yes! I'm- I'm definitely fine, um, especially if nobody loses any limbs. Please don't tell actors to breaks legs around here, because they might take it seriously. Um...

Han as Kuiper: Jesus.

Kales: [laughing] I- I think Zephyr picks up one of the things that Parker needed to pick up and just hands it to him.

Dora: He just takes it and doesn't even realize, and is just like, gathering- it's probably all of those makeup tubs that he'd been sorting through.

Han: Mm-hmm.

Dora: And just....

Han: Yeah, and Kuiper is just staring at this ghost. Like, does not know how to process this.

Kuiper: This ghost is mostly formless.

Han: Okay.

Kales: And like, mostly does not have a face.

Han: Yeah.

Kales: Not for- not for any reason than they're mostly formless. It's not like they lost their...

Han: Mm-hmm.

Kales: They literally lost their face. It's not like they have, like, a Two Face thing going on, right?

Han: Right. I getcha.

Dora: It's more like a Slenderman thing going on.

Kales: Yup.

Han: Yeah.

Kales: But a very short Slenderman.

Han: God...

Dora: A thick man, if you will. [laughter]

Alix: Please...

Kales: Yes.

Alix: I won't.

Dora: [laughs] Anyway, yeah, so Parker doesn't even notice the ghost handing him things, um.

Dora as Parker: Oh, I'm really sorry, um, also, are you new here?

Han as Kales: Uh- uh- um... Wuh-

Dora as Parker: You'll- you'll wanna see Merrill if you're new here.

Han as Kuiper: Uh-

Kales: Zephyr picks up Lucent's contour palette. [laughter] And hands it to Parker. And like, pats it a couple times.

Dora: If only Parker knew what a contour palette looks like, huh Lucent?

Han: Right! [laughter]

Dora: Parker just takes it, and is just like,

Dora as Parker: Oh, thank you ma'am. Thank you.

Han as Kuiper: Uhh... Do- You- The-

Dora as Parker: I know it's a little overwhelming to be in theater if this is your first job, but I mean I promise you-

Han as Kuiper: Nuh- n-n-n-nuh... Are you s- are you seeing... this?

Dora as Parker: It's not that much of a mess. [laughter]

Dora: And, stands up with armful- armful of shitty Target makeup, and looks at Kuiper and then is like,

Dora as Parker: What's wrong? You look like- you look like you've seen [laughter] Well. I'm not gonna say that.

Kales: Zephyr is also kind of looking at Kuiper in confusion.

Han as Kuiper: Uh- is this... are... hmm.

Dora as Parker: Oh, oh no it's fine. It's fine. It'll be fine! It'll be okay!

Han as Kuiper: Um...

Kales: Zephyr pats Kuiper's shoulder.

Han as Kuiper: What? The fuck? I... came here to review a show...

Dora as Parker: Oh! Oh, you're one of the fancy reporters who's coming! I- I would sHan as Kuipere your hand, except I kind of can't at the moment, but- but that's fantastic. Like, I'm so excited! Are you excited?

Han as Kuiper: I'm... mostly... yes, I'm very excited. Can we go back to- do you- do you talk?

Dora as Parker: Yes?

Han as Kuiper: Are you-

Kales: Zephyr gives a thumbs down.

Dora as Parker: Oh, oh, oh, oh, you mean them, no, no, they're fine. Unfortunately they're not part of the show. We didn't really have any room for them in the cast, and then they were cutting a bunch of stuff out of there, and they cut all of the jokes, which would have been perfect, but you know, I don't know anything about legends or myths or playwriting. I'm just here for the internship, but it's been pretty good!

Han as Kuiper: Okay... Um... Who- Do- do you... Who, uh, who were you? Is that- is that offensive, I'm sorry. I don't really do this.

Kales: It's sort of difficult for Zephyr to answer when they don't have a voice-

Han: Mm-hmm.

Kales: So they just shrug.

Dora as Parker: Oh, um-

Han as Kales: Okay.

Dora as Parker: Well, if- if you like, I can get you- well, I don't know if we have a Ouija Board, but I can- I can make you something like a Ouija Board? And you can talk before the show!

Kales: Zephyr like-

Han as Kuiper: You know?

Kales: -pats the contour palettes, and then points in the direction of where they need to go.

Dora as Parker: Oh! Oh!

Han as Kuiper: You know what, I'm good. I'm- I should be going. Um... I should- I need to... I need to get in the audience, I guess.

Dora as Parker: All right, well enjoy the show!

Han as Kuiper: Uh, that's... yeah. No, that's- that's what I'll do. Okay.

Kales: As she leaves, Zephyr just waves. [laughter]

Dora: I think that's scene.

Han: I love them.

Alix: Oh my god.

Kales: I love this- I love this ghost.

Dora: This ghost is so good.

Han: This ghost is my new best friend.

Dora: This ghost is Lucent's best friend because this ghost got Lucent his palette back.

Han: Yeah! Gotta treat those cheekbones right.

Dora: Yeah. I think that was, uh, the last scene of this challenge.

Han: That was it.

Dora: Okay. So...

Alix: Mmkay.

Dora: So as with the first challenge, we've added one white and one red to the pool. Now if your main character is unhappy about the path the fellowship has taken, hold one red stone. If your main character actually wants the quest to fail, hold two red stones. [pause] It's always interesting when you see everybody on Discord typing.

Alix: Mm-hmm.

Kales: Yeah. It's good. Not enough players to do several people are typing, but.

Dora: Alas. All right. Three, two, one, go. All right.

Han: Nice.

Dora: We have one red from Alix.

Alix: Ay. You know. I think that Persimmon's stage fright is really getting to them at this point. Uh, and just thinks that, if it was only opening night, then that would be better. Which seems very counterintuitive, but you know.

Dora: Yeah.

Han: Mm-hmm.

Dora: All right, so next we each take one white and one red. As a player, do you think the fellowship did what was necessary to succeed at the challenge? Hold white if yes, red if no. [pause] All right, three, two, one, go. Kales?

Alix: Kay.

Han: Kales?

Kales: It's sending.

Dora: Oh. [laughter] Oh.

Han: Oh there we go. Okay.

Kales: Yeah. I hit enter at the right time, it just decided to not send. Discord does this to me sometimes.

Dora: That's fair.

Han: Mm-hmm.

Dora: Okay, so we have three white and one red, and since I'm the dissenter, um, I think the fact that, you know, we literally scared our reporter with a ghost and also one of our actors tried to tell the reporter to not give us good reviews was probably not the best, uh, course of action we could have taken.

Alix: Listen. I feel like we- I feel like we confused her into at least writing something interesting.

Han: Yeah, I think- I think I can say what she wrote depending on how the outcome of the challenge goes.

Dora: Good.

Alix: All right. God, okay.

Dora: All right, and so now we're gonna roll for it. We have four white and three red. So we'll be rolling that mythical D7 again. And 1 through 3 is red, 4 through 7 is white. Oh. Beans.

Kales: Ooh.

Han: That's a red.

Alix: Aww.

Dora: That is a red.

Alix: Okay.

Kales: Well, it could- it could go okay.

Han: Okay.

Dora: It could- we could still win the challenge. So we're rolling a D6, 1 through 3 red, uh, no. 1 through- 1 and 2 red-

Kales: No, it'd be-

Han: No.

Dora: Sorry.

Kales: Yeah.

Dora: Woo!

Kales: Ayy.

Han: Okay, that's a white. So we win the challenge.

Dora: We win the challenge, but, is it-

Han: But we lose one character.

Dora: Is it lose one character or get betrayed?

Han: Yeah. It's lose one character-

Kales: It's- it's lose one character-

Han: -win the challenge.

Dora: Okay, cool.

Kales: The only time a betrayal happens is if you have red-red.

Dora: Okay. Cool.

Alix: Okay. Hmm...

Han: Okay.

Alix: I mean, I think the ideas that I have are for both my characters, 'cause like, it could either be that Grace comes and is just like, this show sucks and I'm not gonna fund it anymore, or Persimmon could have had like a total anxiety meltdown on stage and just like, left the production.

Kales and Han: (sadly) Mmm.

Alix: Which would be really sad, but.

Dora: Honestly, um, part of me wants to just keep Persimmon around to induce more anxiety in them.

Alix: (sadly) Mmm.

Dora: But that's because I'm mean and an angst gremlin.

Han: Mm-hmm.

Kales: Part- see, part of me wants to keep Persimmon around for anxiety, and part of me really wants to see what Grace is like as main character.

Dora That's true. That's true. Okay, yeah. That's true.

Kales: Like...

Dora: I feel like we haven't been divorced enough.

Han: Mm-hmm. [laughter] No this is good also because this is exactly what Lucent wanted!

Kales: Hmm yeah!

Dora: Damn.

Alix: God.

Kales: It's- it's ultimately up to Alix, but. Those are my cases.

Alix: I think- yeah. Mmm. I think I've done a lot of Persimmon, so.

Dora: Divorcing intensifies.

Alix: Yes, it's time to get- it's time to divorce everything.

Dora: Lucent's getting everything he wants.

Han: Persimmon is divorced from the fellowship.

Dora: Aww.

Alix: I think maybe, you know, on some- on some level, this is probably good for Persimmon, 'cause like, they probably need like, therapy, I don't know.

Dora: Aww.

Kales: (sadly) Mmm. [pause] Stage fright is real, man.

Han: All right. Mm-hmm.

Alix: Yeah. But this also throws another wrench into the thing, because like, Persimmon did have like, the lead role, I think.

Dora: Yeah.

Han: Mm-hmm. [laughter] No listen, it's fine. 'Cause now Lucent has the lead role.

Alix: Oh god.

Kales: Great.

Han: Mm-hmm. It is great.

Dora: All right, so. [laughter] What's uh, what's our next challenge?

Han: I mean it's "perform", right? But I would also, you know, what everyone-

Dora: The way that the arc that we have taken, I feel like "perform" is... almost certainly...

Alix: Yeah.

Dora: So, what makes this difficult? Other than the fact that we lost one of our leads? And the director is still a cryptid!

Kales: And we don't have a writer. It's fine [crosstalk] it's fine.

Dora: [crosstalk] It's fine.

Alix: Oh, uh, how did the article turn out?

Dora: Oh yeah!

Han: Um, so we won the challenge, so I think it was like, largely... Again, she doesn't know anything about theater. So I think it was like, largely a fluff piece, with like a lot of plot summary and not much criticism? Um.

Kales: Bless.

Alix: The chairs in the theater felt real good.

Han: Yeah. [laughter] They... had good snacks. There was also a ghost. I don't know if that was part of the show. [laughter]

Alix: Still not totally sure what was and wasn't performance art.

Han: Mm-hmm. [laughter] It seems like the whole experience could be performance art, but I'm not sure.

Dora: That's fantastic.

Alix: Okay.

Dora: Cool.

Han: Kuiper fell asleep when she was dragged to go see Les Mis, like, is what I will say.

Kales: I mean... No I'm not being fair, I love Les Mis.

Dora: All right. All right. So, I think we already- we've- all of this difficulty is self-inflicted. Which is great.

Alix: Mm-hmm.

Dora: It makes for good theater. Um. Okay, so, I guess I'll choose who starts. Because I feel like it.

Alix: Okay.

Dora: And I think Lucent starts.

Han: Okay.

Alix: Yes. I've missed him.

Han: Ah, 'kay.

Kales: I miss Lucent.

Han: [laughs] He's back baby.

Kales: I love this trash person.

Han: He's awful. Um, yeah, I think this has to be like, right before the show starts. Like, in the frantic... mess that is backstage.

Alix: Mm-hmm.

Han: And I think... let's see. Who is there. Um, god. I think what happens is that Lucent basically, like, commandeers Parker as his, like, personal assistant.

Dora: Oh boy.

Alix: Oh god.

Han: Is basically what has happened. 'Cause like, that's where he's at. Um, yeah. So, I think like- I can't decide if Lucent's the kind of actor who like, is in costume an hour before, or like, is in costume thirty seconds before the curtain opens, and I'm leaning towards the latter. [laughter]

Dora: Oh boy.

Kales: Ohhh! Gonna give Merrill a heart attack.

Han: I think I'm giving Kales a heart attack, which is fine. [laughter]

Kales: You're gonna give both of us a heart attack! It's fine!

Han: Yeah. Um, so I think he's like, definitely still in his weirdo street clothes, and it is like, mmm, five or six minutes before places. And, I think he's like basically sending on Parker on errands to like, get him more water, and like, go tell this person that my costume doesn't fit right and they have to fix it, and like, a bunch of bullshit basically.

Kales: Oh, so he's being that actor.

Han: Oh yeah.

Dora as Persimmon: I've got your green M&Ms! I picked them all out myself!

Han as Lucent: I'm allergic to green dye!

Dora as Persimmon: Oh.

Han as Lucent: What did I tell you?

Dora as Persimmon: Oh.

Kales: Oh my god.

Han: I kid, he's not- well no, he might be that bad. [Dora laughs] Okay. But yeah, I think like, Parker has just gotten back with a bunch of safety pins or like... No what it is is that he's making Parker stand there and hold the bobby pins so he can take them and put them in his hair-

Alix: Oh my god.

Han: -like, one at a time.

Dora: Nice.

Han: Yeah. Yup. He's like,

Han as Lucent: [sighs] Okay. Um... Do you- just... just put those down. We're done. We're done with that. Um... Do you know- where's... where's Clarisse? I needed to- did you get her? I-

Dora as Parker: I was looking for her but I think she went on a beer run? Was what somebody said?

Han as Lucent: Shit- what is she doing leaving? God damn...

Dora as Parker: I think that, uh, well, I... Mmm... Maybe it's for the best. I've, uh, I don't know, opening night is always a little- a little iffy.

Han as Lucent: A little iffy? We can't be a little iffy. [sighs] It's- Listen. It's fine, it's fine. I'll just... I'll just have to go out there, with an ill-fitting costume, and that's fine. It doesn't- [continues muttering]

Dora as Parker: Well, I mean, we found your contour palette.

Han as Lucent: (quietly) It's fine! [pause] Thank you, um, that's great, great news. Um... [sighs] God, I. [sighs again] Am I sweating? Do I look like I'm sweating?

Dora as Parker: No, no, not at all.

Han as Lucent: I feel- I feel like I'm sweating. I'm not- I'm usually not nervous, this is... [sighs] Parker, what if this goes... terribly?

Dora as Parker: Did Persimmon die and possess you? [laughter]

Han as Lucent: No?

Dora as Parker: It's just so uncanny.

Han as Lucent: Ghosts can't do that.

Dora as Parker: You sound just like them though. [pause] Are you- oh, is it because your taking their part?

Han as Lucent: Please don't... Of course not. I just- what if... I need this. To be perfect. And I'm surrounded by idiots.

Dora as Parker: Wow, rude.

Han as Lucent: And... Not you. You're fine. I mean, everyone else. [sighs] Just... Tell me it's gonna be fine.

Dora as Parker: It's gonna be amazing. You're gonna be amazing!

Han as Lucent: Okay, okay, okay, okay okay, okay, okay. Go- [spluttering] I left- I left the- I left my costume leotard in the other room. Go get it.

Dora as Parker: All right, all right, I'm on it. Of course.

Dora: And like, Parker does a little salute before don- dashing out the door. I almost said jaunting.

Han: And scene.

Dora: That's not...

Han: Jaunting, yeah. That works too.

Alix: Mm-hmm.

Han: All right. Yeah, I think that was definitely scene.

Alix: Okay. Um, so I mean, because Grace isn't in the show, I feel like, the ideas that I have are like, her either watching the show or like during intermission? Um... But I feel like her watching the show wouldn't actually have that much, like, she wouldn't actually get to do that much.

Han: Mm-hmm.

Alix: So I think maybe it is, like, during intermission, and I think, um... Hmm. Yeah, I think that she's like, forced her way backstage during intermission. And I want, uh, I definitely want Lucent and Parker to be in this scene.

Han: Mm-hmm.

Alix: And I think also like- hmm. I'm torn. Because I kind of want- I want the ghost to show up again. [laughter]

Kales: Well, the ghost doesn't talk, much. They just-

Alix: Oh, I know.

Kales: -do motions, so theoretically, if you wanted to also have Merrill in there, we could do both.

Alix: Okay. I think I do want both. Okay. So, I think Grace like, Grace does her own version of throwing open the door, which is that [laughter] she opens it, like, pretty slowly actually, but it's somehow very dramatic and attention-catching.

Han: Mm-hmm.

Dora: It's not that she opens it slowly, it's that the camera pans slowly and it's like, in slow motion.

Alix: Yes. Exactly. And she comes- she comes in and she just like, claps her hands like once, and somehow everybody starts paying attention. And she just goes,

Alix as Grace: Listen up everybody.

Kales: Merrill's turned around, pen at the ready, you know, ready to go.

Alix as Grace: This... the first act has been... a disaster. You need to turn this around, for- how long is the rest of this?

Kales as Merrill: Um... It's another hour and fifteen minutes.

Alix as Grace: Oh my god. Just... [sighs] Listen. You. The one who- the one with the ego. Lucent.

Han as Lucent: Oh, yeah, hi. Yeah?

Alix as Grace: You need- I just- I don't feel it, you know? I just- when were you given this? It feels like you were just given this part like, two weeks ago, I just- I don't feel your connection to the character.

Han as Lucent: Um... I mean, it was... it was about three days ago. But, I mean I can-

Alix as Grace: Excuse me?

Han as Lucent: What?

Alix as Grace: Who's- who's- where's the director? Whose decision was this?

Han as Lucent: Um... Merrill?

Kales as Merrill: The director's on a coffee run right now.

Alix as Grace: [sighs]

Kales as Merrill: They'll be back-

Alix as Grace: Good lord.

Kales as Merrill: They'll be back in... Hopefully in a moment.

Alix as Grace: Not before intermission is over, I shouldn't think. Ugh, listen, I... Is that- are there ghosts in this show?

Kales as Merrill: Oh. No, I think they're part of the theater?

Kales: Zephyr gives a thumbs up.

Alix as Grace: Can you maybe work ghosts into the show?

Kales: Zephyr kind of looks at them like, can I? Can I?

Han as Lucent: [spluttering] Can they?

Alix as Grace: You need to do something drastic. I'm falling asleep.

Han as Lucent: Can we put ghosts in the show? Is that allowed?

Dora as Parker: I mean, I don't think there are any [crosstalk] laws against it.

Kales as Merrill: [crosstalk] I don't see why not? [crosstalk again] I don't see why we can't.

Han as Lucent: [crosstalk] Can we- okay, can we like, huddle for a second? Can we just... can we just-

Alix as Grace: Am I invited to the huddle?

Han as Lucent: Not- no, no. Theater huddle.

Alix as Grace: [sighs]

Kales: Zephyr comes into the huddle.

Han as Lucent: Are we- do you know how to... do this?

Kales: Nod nod nod nod nod.

Han as Lucent: Um... Merrill?

Kales as Merrill: I mean, like Parker said, there are no laws against it. I think equity would get confusing.

Dora as Parker: Will makeup stick to you?

Kales: Shrug. [laughter]

Han as Lucent: Do they- where do you put it?

Dora as Parker: I- I don't know, it's just I know that you have to accentuate features so they can be seen from the back! I'm not sure how visible are-

Han as Lucent: What features, Parker? [laughter]

Dora as Parker: All of it? Like, the entire ghost?

Han as Lucent: We don't have time for this.

Kales: Zephyr- Zephyr makes like a, "it's fine, it's fine, it's fine, whatever" gesture.

Han as Lucent: [sighs] Okay. Okay. You- But do- [sighs] I took an improv class, it's gonna be fine. Um... [laughter] It's gonna be fine. I'm gonna go get into my act two makeup, because that is a process, and I trust you all to figure this out. Ms. Mitra, I hope you enjoy the second act... plus ghosts.

Alix as Grace: I... hope so too. Ugh. Just know that I am the reason that this theater runs, and there will be no next show if the second half of this show disappoints me. All right? Is that clear?

Kales: Zephyr salutes.

Dora as Parker: Yes ma'am.

Han: I think that has to be scene.

Alix: Okay. [laughs]

Kales: [crosstalk] I'm so excited!

Han: [crosstalk] I'm so glad we put the ghost in the show!

Kales: I'm so happy!

Han: This is everything I wanted.

Kales: I'm so happy!

Dora: Wait, whose scene was that? Okay.

Alix: Mine.

Dora: Oh, shit, that means it's my scene!

Alix: Yeah.

Dora: Um, [laughter] I guess, I guess it's gonna be Parker and Merrill, trying to do stuff for the second act?

Kales: I guess so.

Dora: So, um, I guess the second act is underway, and there's maybe a set change in there that Parker's supposed to be helping with. I don't know how theater works. Help me theater people.

Kales: Um, it's tricky because Parker wouldn't necessarily be on headset. Like, you just know what to do during the show, and Merrill would just be like, in the booth going,

Kales as Merrill: Oh please please please please please do your job. [crosstalk] Please please please please please.

Han: [crosstalk] What if he's running the fly system?

Kales: Oh my god! Yup! He's running the fly system!

Dora: [whispering] What's the fly system?

Han: It's like those system of pulleys that like, make things that are suspended descend on the stage and go up.

Dora: Okay, okay.

Kales: Our fly system controlled curtains and some hanging set pieces and half the lighting rig.

Dora: Okay. So that is- that is a good excuse for Parker to have a headset, then?

Han: [crosstalk] Mm-hmm, yes, 'cause that gets called.

Kales: [crosstalk] Yes. Oh yeah. Yeah.

Dora: Okay, perfect. So, in that case I guess, Merrill, call your things.

Kales: Oh no, now I have to remember how to call a show.

Dora: That's okay, I don't know how to call a show, so I can't- I won't know the difference.

Kales: [crosstalk] Our listeners will.

Han: [crosstalk] Fly 46. Stand by.

Kales: Oh yeah, it's just- it's just... Yeah. Fly cue 11, stand by- 'cause, you probably know what that meant. And that means you have to go to whichever, like, probably 46.

Dora as Parker: Are we sure? That's- it doesn't look like they're gonna be doing that scene change.

Kales as Merrill: Just, run the cue.

Dora as Parker: Oh- okay.

Kales as Merrill: I'm- I promise, I'm watching what's going on. When I say go- that's not the cue. You just run the cue, and it is not our responsibility what they do on stage.

Dora as Parker: But- what if- [whispering] What if they don't get out of the way in time?

Kales as Merrill: They'll be fine. Fly cue 11, go.

Dora as Parker: Oh- oh- okay, yes. Yes ma'am.

Dora: And- I don't know what cue el- fly cue 11 does, but-

Kales: It's just, something moves. It's probably not even on stage. Yeah. It's definitely not on stage. Like, there's no danger whatsoever that someone's going to get hurt by this.

Dora: Except for the fact that PARKER definitely feels responsible for the last major injury on the last show and is never, ever...

Kales: Yeah...

Alix: Oh, you think?

Kales: Yeah...

Alix: That seemed- I totally didn't get that at all.

Dora: Yeah, no, they're never... [laughter]

Kales: I think- I think what does happen though, is that like, it comes down, and then Zephyr goes through it.

Dora as Parker: Oh- Oops. [laughter]

Kales: And it's like, fine.

Dora: Yeah.

Kales: Zephyr just walks through it. We didn't block Zephyr. And Merrill's like,

Kales as Merrill: Ah, shit. We should've blocked them. So that they'd have a path.

Dora as Parker: When- when would we have blocked them?

Kales as Merrill: No, we couldn't have, but they're intangible, so they'll be fine.

Dora as Parker: I just- I just hope that they don't make Lucent get out of place. I just- I don't want- I don't want any of the set pieces to come falling down on him.

Kales as Merrill: Lucent took an improv class. Can you go make sure- [laughter and clapping]
Can you go make sure that Betty is running the projectors okay? I don't want the holograms to go wrong. That's the most important thing.

Dora as Parker: Yes. Of course. Right.

Kales as Merrill: Just... go check with her. Okay?

Dora as Parker: Yes.

Dora: And I think that's probably scene.

Kales: Yeah.

[laughter]

Kales: Okay. Now I have to figure out where- the question with my scene is when is this set?
This is probably after the show.

Han: Mm-hmm. Although, the outcome of the challenge should say whether the show went well or not.

Dora: Yeah.

Kales: Yeah. That's true.

Alix: Mm-hmm.

Kales: So... Maybe this is later, in the- Oh, I re- no. No, I can't do that. Um, but I can do- Merrill has to ask- Merrill asks Parker to get Lucent on headset when he comes off stage during like, a tiny moment where he's offstage.

Han: Okay. [laughter] So he's just on headset? Now?

Kales: He's like, very very very close to Parker's headset, because Merrill was like,

Kales as Merrill: No no no no no, don't take your headset off! [laughter] I just need to him.

Dora: They're sharing earbuds!

Kales: They're sharing earbuds.

Han: Yup.

Kales: And she's just like,

Kales as Merrill: How's everything going for you?

Han as Lucent: I mean, how does it- how does it look?

Kales as Merrill: Well, it looks like a ghost is phasing through our set pieces, but other than that, it looks like it's going fine. I just wanna know how it-

Han as Lucent: But like-

Kales as Merrill: -how it's going for you?

Han as Lucent: I mean... It's a little weird. And a little stressful. But I think it's- I think it's okay?

Kales as Merrill: Okay?

Han as Lucent: I'm adding in some of the jokes back and I'm hoping- I think that's helping.

Kales as Merrill: Okay, good. Good. Just, if you're adding jokes back in, cut out some of the line-like, if you forget something, just cut it and move on. We can't-

Han as Lucent: Okay.

Kales as Merrill: -extend this any longer than we have to.

Han as Lucent: Fine. Fine, that's fine. Um...

Kales as Merrill: Okay? Parker, are you doing okay?

Dora as Parker: [very high pitched] Yeah. It's fine. Everybody's fine. [laughter]

Kales as Merrill: Okay. We've got-

Han as Lucent: He's fine.

Kales as Merril: -a cue coming up in- we've got a cue coming up in [crosstalk] ten lines, so-

Han as Lucent: [crosstalk] Yeah, I need to go.

Kales as Merril: Go! Go, go!

Han as Lucent: I'm going!

Kales as Merril: I just wanted to check in!

[laughter]

Han: Is that scene?

Kales: That's something- yeah, that's scene. [laughter]

Dora: Everybody...

Kales: Like, like...

Dora: Everybody's possessed by the anxiety demon now.

Han: Mm-hmm.

Kales: Yup. [laughter]

Han: Lucent, who has never felt an anxiety in his life.

Alix: Persimmon was soaking up all the anxiety like a sponge. [laughter]

Han: Mm-hmm. Yeah, all right. Well that was it right?

Dora: Yup, that's it. So...

Kales: Yeah that's it.

Han: Wow. All right.

Dora: Now we go to our third challenge draw. The outcome of the third challenge decides the entire quest. If we fail now, the quest is lost. So, as usual, we start with one white and one red in the pool. And we also add one white for each successful challenge, and one red for each failed

challenge. So, we had one of each. So, each player takes two red. If your main character is unhappy about the path the fellowship has taken, hold one red stone. If your main character actually wants the quest to fail, hold two red stones. Otherwise, hold no stones. Three, two, one, go.

Han: All right, that's one red.

Alix: Ooh.

Dora: Sorry. Parker's just having-

Han: That's okay.

Dora: -a really bad evening, and having flashbacks-

Kales: Ohh.

Alix: Aww.

Kales: Parker is stressy.

Dora: Parker is very stressed. So, now we each take one white and one red. As a player, do you think the fellowship succeeded at the challenge? Hold white if yes, red if no.

Alix: Woah no-

Dora: This will decide the entire quest, not just this challenge, and I imagine we're going to need a minute. [laughter] All right, three, two, one, go. [pause]

Han: All right.

Alix: Okay.

Han: It's three white, one red.

Kales: I went back and forth on it for a while, and I just like-

Alix: Me too.

Han: That's fair.

Kales: I just am like, we sure succeeded in putting on a show.

Han: Mm-hmm.

Kales: But I don't know if we- I don't necessarily think we succeeded at putting on an enjoyable show. [laughter]

Han: I'm just thinking about how much I enjoy watching community theater productions where, like, things are going wrong. So...

Kales: Yeah. I don't like being in those productions.

Han: That's fair.

Kales: So that's where I'm coming from.

Han: [laughing] Yeah.

Alix: I'm just happy we put the jokes back in. [laughter]

Dora: Honestly, I think, you know, Zephyr has probably decades of experience, and adding Zephyr into the show was probably exactly what it needed in order to not suck so bad, so...

Han: Zephyr's very talented.

Kales: Zephyr is...

Alix: I love Zephyr.

Han: Okay.

Dora: All right. So, that means we have five white and four red. So one through four is red, five through nine is white.

Alix: I'm so tense right now.

Kales: That's a D9, right?

Dora: Yup, that's a D9, and I am not looking. [pause]

Alix: (sadly) Mmm.

Kales: Ooh!

Dora: Oh!

Han: Huh.....

Dora: Oh.

Han: Well...

Kales: Our chances of getting a red have gone down.

Dora: Yup. So, one through three- one through three red, five through eight white.

Alix: [moaning]

Kales: Looking between my fingers.

Dora: I'm not looking at all.

Han: [whispers] Okay. okay.

[gasp]

Dora: Yay!

Kales: Yes! Huhh!

Han: That was a six.

Alix: Mmkay.

Kales: Thank god.

Han: So...

Dora: May I make a suggestion?

Han: Yeah.

Alix: Mm-hmm.

Dora: 'Cause we- since it's red white, we lose a character but we win the quest. May I suggest that we lose Zephyr, because Zephyr got to fulfill the last thing holding them to this plane by being in a play?

[everyone reacts with 'aww's]

Han: Oh no, that's really really good.

Alix and Kales: That's really good!

Kales: No I love it. I love it a lot.

Alix: Aww.

Han: That's extremely good.

Kales: That's so good.

Han: Like the show ends, and the curtain falls, and they just like...

Alix: They take a bow, and they just don't come back up.

Han: Yeah. Aww.

Kales: Aww. Aww.

Han: Oh, I love it. Okay good.

Kales: Oh Zephyr!

Alix: Aww.

Dora: So it turns out, it was exactly what we needed to not have a sucky show, and I think, you know, maybe not necessarily rave reviews, but everybody thought it was really interesting.

Kales: Mm-hmm. A ghost showed up in act two. [laughter]

Dora: There's only one problem though. That means that we lost the actor for the ghost in act two, so now Lucent has to do the entirety of act two pretending that there's a ghost [laughter] for the rest of the run of the show.

Han: No, what if they make Parker do it?

Kales: Aw!

Han: 'Cause it's a silent role. And they just put him in a lot of like, white makeup.

Alix: Make him wear a sheet. Cut some holes in it. [laughter]

Han: That's the true epilogue.

Dora: Yes.

Alix: Yeah.

Dora: Yes.

Alix: Oh my god.

Han: Parker does a great job.

Dora: Yes. Perfect. Beautiful.

Han: Good.

Dora: Hey-

Han: Okay.

Dora: -we didn't make it sad, y'all!

Han: I'm so proud of us.

Alix: We did, a little bit.

Dora: It was- it was poignant. It was poignant.

Alix: Yeah.

Kales: It was nice.

Han: It was a little bit of poignancy after a whole lot of bullshit, so like...

Dora: Yeah. [laughter]

Kales: Hey, if that's the tone of this podcast, I'm all for it.

Dora: Yeah.

Han: Yeah same, honestly.

Alix: Yup.

Kales: Do we do the thing where we summarize what our characters-

Dora: Yes. Yes.

Kales: -do after. Okay.

Alix: Yes.

Han: Mm-hmm. Do we just wanna go in regular turn order, then?

Dora: Yes, starting with Kales.

Alix: Yeah.

Kales: Yeah, so, Merrill kind of goes, okay, no I can't, like, stage manage anymore. I have to find some- it's not worth the little money- like, how little money I make for it? So she, like, kind of sets off, 'cause she's gotta find another day job, 'cause uh, there is no way that she's going to make any money being a criminal, so she's gotta find like a day job, right?

Alix: Mm-hmm.

Han: Mmkay. [pause] Okay. I think Lucent has an illustrious career in regional theater. He gets his equity card. And...

Alix: Oh good.

Kales: Good!

Han: Yeah. Yup. And I think he's still a nightmare to work with. [laughter] But...

Alix: Aww.

Kales: Bless.

Han: But I think after this show, I think he mellows out a little bit.

Kales: But- a little bit.

Han: A little bit. Not enough to not make him a nightmare, but just a little bit mellower.

Alix: Aww.

Han: But yeah. I don't think he ever makes it above the level of regional theater, but I think he does fine.

Alix: Aww. Okay. I think Grace is very pleased that it was her idea that like, kind of saved the show. But she becomes very interested in ghosts. And while she does keep funding the theater, she also starts to fund paranatural research. [laughter]

Han: Yes.

Alix: On the philosophy that just adding ghosts to things makes it better.

Dora: Yeah.

Han: Mm-hmm.

Alix: Um... And you know. Possibly starts a really- like, hires some people to start a really shitty ghosthunting webseries.

Han: Incredible.

Dora: Fuzzbeed Unsolved. [laughter]

Alix: Yes. And it's pretty profitable, so.

Dora: Um, I think that after the first couple of shows, Parker actually gets really into the role of being the ghost and decides that instead of completing his degree in what he was originally going to, he decides to get a theater minor. While he's at it.

Alix: Aww.

Kales: Aww.

Dora: And, I don't know- he probably follows Lucent's career pretty closely. Maybe becomes a-

Alix: Oh my god.

Dora: Maybe becomes a theater journalist, who knows.

Han: Wow.

Alix: Wow.

Kales: Wow. [laughter] I had to join the trend. [laughter]

Alix: Woow.

Kales: Woow.

Han: Wow.

Kales: [laughs] Wow.

Dora: We're terrible people. [laughter] Okay, so I think that's it.

Han: Yeah.

Kales: Yeah.

Dora: So, this has been a production of Follow the Leader. And I have been your host, Dora. And you can find me at harpydora on Twitter.

Kales: Um, this has been- I continue to be Kales, you can still find me on Twitter at citadelofswords.

Han: And I'm Han, you can find me on Twitter at mercutioes.

Alix: And I will be Alix for the foreseeable future, and you can find me on Twitter at kismetnemesis.

Dora: Okay. Well... [theme music begins- dice shaking, cards shuffling]

Han: Awesome.

Dora: I don't know a really great way that isn't awkward to sign off, so we're signing off now. Bye.

Alix: Bye!

Han: We'll just fade it out under the music, it's fine.

Dora: We'll fix it in post.

Han: We'll fix it in post.

Alix: Wow.

Kales: Fix it in post!

Dora: All right.

Alix: All right.

[theme music plays]