

Follow the Leader Episode 3.1: Five Cups of Painkillers

Featuring Alix as Ara, Han as Evander, Jade as Kari, Mab as Davey, and Sam as Jo

Dora: Hi everyone, this is Dora. I just wanted to do a little housekeeping before we get to the episode. We realized that our lines didn't include racism and sexism when they should. Unfortunately, we recorded several sessions without the correct lines, so you'll probably be hearing this message on a few episodes before we've gotten it corrected. Anyway, now that that's out of the way, enjoy the show.

Mab: Hi folks! Welcome to Follow the Leader, a podcast focused on telling character-driven stories through the use of GM-less tabletop games, where we can all take the lead. You can find us on Twitter at [ftlcast](#). Today we're playing Fiasco by Jason Morningstar. For those of you who are new to the game, here's the basics. Fiasco's inspired by cinematic tales of small time capers gone disastrously wrong. Inspired by films like Blood Simple, Fargo, The Way of the Gun, Burn After Reading, and Simple Plan. You'll play ordinary people with powerful ambition and poor impulse control. There will be big dreams and flawed execution. It won't go well for them, to put it mildly, and in the end, it will probably all go south in a glorious heap of jealous, murder, and recrimination.

Jade: Ayy.

Mab: Lives and reputations will be lost, painful wisdom will be gained, and if you're really lucky, your guy might just end up back where he started. And specifically, we'll be using the "Into the Void" playset book by Gremlin Legions. In the golden age of cinema and television, when people would look up to the stars, they would see grand adventure between good and evil, with intrepid space explorers venturing out into the unknown, making the galaxy a better place for one and all. Of course, we know better. People will just be as rotten in space as they are planetside, bringing their pettiness, bickering, backstabbing, and greed to the stars. Sure, they may talk about grand plans and bettering humanity, but it's only a matter of time before someone starts to claim planets and asteroids for their own, leading to the next great gold rush. For the sake of this playset, we're assuming that we haven't gotten too far outside of our system. This isn't Star Trek or Star Wars, where warp drives and hyperspace coordinates are easily available. Hell, they aren't even valid theories yet. While spacecraft has advanced since the 20th century, going from Earth to Mars still takes several weeks, and further out can take upwards of months to a year. All that time aboard ship can lead to many poor decisions as crewmates start to lose patience with each other. I'm Mab, and you can find me on Twitter at [littlady Mab](#), and my pronouns are she/her. Playing with me today, we have...

Jade: I'm Jade! You can find me on Twitter at [jadeoxfordrose](#). As you'll notice, I am the token Brit here. [laughter] I hope that doesn't lead to somebody else I know who's British playing Fiasco 'cause it did not go well for him. [laughter] My pronouns are they/them.

Alix: My name is Alix, you can find me on Twitter at kismetnemesis, and my pronouns are also they/them.

Sam: My name is Sam, you can find me on Twitter at sacalow. And my pronouns are he/him.

Han: And I'm Han, you can find me on Twitter at mercutioes, which is spelled with an e, 'cause mercutios, the way you would really spell it, was taken. And I also use they/them.

Mab: Our lines, which we absolutely do not want to see, are homophobia and transphobia, violence against children and animals, sexual assault, domestic violence or intimate partner violence, attacks by dogs, unwanted pregnancy. And our veils, which we're fine with addressing but we'll just fade to black on, steamy situations, which we'll probably be fading a lot to on this episode, [laughter] [theme music begins- dice shaking, cards shuffling] graphic descriptions of bodily harm, and if there's anything new that we wanna add, since this a new set of players together, then let us know now. Um... And since that sounds all good, now that we've got all that, we're gonna get started.

[theme music plays]

Mab: So again, we're playing Fiasco, and the basic set up- we have rolled our twenty dice. And we got the grand total of 69. [crosstalk] Not that it matters, really.

Everybody else: Nice!

Mab: So, we're gonna take a few minutes to get our character stuff together. And so, what we're gonna go ahead and do now is we'll go down the list. So, what you'll do Sam, is you'll introduce your character, and then define like- kind of go through what your relationship card is with Han's character. So you're like, this is my character, and then with Han's character, define the romance, the colonies, and then Han, you'll go on, and we'll just kind of go down the line like that.

Jade: Yeah.

Sam: Got it. Um, okay, hi. I'm Sam again. Hello. [laughter] It's me. So, my relationship- or wait. So, my character, his name is Jo Stockton. He is a model for a space tourism company. He used to be a mechanic, before he was pulled into this space tourism modeling stuff, [dramatically] before he was discovered, I would say. And the relationship card that I have is with Han. And so our relationship is a romance. It's forbidden affection. And our location is the colonies. And I would say that we met on the Atlantis Colony on Europa. And sort of, for our sort of torrid forbidden romance.

Han: Très romantique. Okay. Awesome. Okay, cool, so I am going to be playing... Evander Navarro Thorne, who is, I have written, doctor spy and homme fatale.

Jade: Yes...

Han: Because... I am who I am. He's, I think, technically on some kind of an assignment from some kind of undefined agency on like this whatever target planet we're going to. And the card that I have is with Mab's character. And we are adversaries, traitor and former ally. So I've betrayed space Hamlet at some time in the past.

Mab: Ugh! Alas!

Han: And the weapon we have is a taser. [Mab laughs] Undefined kind of taser. Could be a cool space taser, who knows.

Mab: It's gotta be a space taser.

Han: Yeah.

Mab: We're in space! I'm playing a character named Davey Jane. And he is basically a space Hamlet. Boy loves be dramatic. He loves to pout. He is a... disgraced or former prince of some space empire that we'll probably define in play. He is basically Hamlet to what is a vlogger, and loves that [quietly] 80s synth music. No, I'm just kidding. [normal volume] And so the character relationship that I'll be defining is with Jade's character. We have a destiny together. We are survivors of tragedy. And the unexpected location that we had found ourselves in at some point was a hyperspace gate. And... it will be fraught, and dramatic, and they'll talk about feelings. [laughter] A lot. It's fine. It's fine! Go on!

Jade: Jade here. I am playing Kari Veilon, who's a former soldier turned freelancer. Technically a mercenary, but he has like way too many morals for that label to stick. Basically a jack of all trades: can cook, can fight, is handy with a welding torch. And the other point is: a mum friend, but make it fucky. Like... [laughter] He'll be like, "Okay, you look slamming in that outfit, but if you're not going to sleep with me, have you got condoms in your bag? Like, [laughter] you gotta be safe." Like, you know. He's the-

Sam: I love it.

Jade: He's that person.

Han: I love him.

Jade: Uh, yeah, just 'cause I like to- he's transfeminine, so, uses he and they pronouns. And yeah. He fucky. Um... [laughter] My relationship with Alix's character is they're confederates: a former commander and XO- an executive officer, we just googled this shit because we didn't really know!

Alix: We though it stood for hug and kiss, which it might still.

Jade: Yup. And between them, they have some contraband, and it is organically grown herbs. So, you know. Space weed. [laughter]

Han: Hell yeah.

Alix: Okay. So my character is Ara Atkinson. He is commander in a, you know, space military. I've just written down, "beefy boy" and "bro we are kissing". Um... [laughter]

Mab: I think it's very important to note that there is a space in the middle of the word kissing.

Jade: Kiss-ing.

Mab: Just-

Alix: Yeah, 'cause it's um... I have to keep the integrity of the original tweet.

Han: Right.

Alix: In, in...

Mab: Of course! I understand. I just love it.

Alix: Intact, yeah. And I've also written down, "about to learn that toxic masculinity is a mistake," because I think that he like- it's not that he doesn't know that he like men, it's that he- he just is really not in touch with his feelings. But he's about to be, if I have anything to say about it!

Sam: Nice.

Alix: And so the need that I have defined is sort of related to this- is the need to hump. Um, and defined as anyone and everyone you can, with Jo, who- we're also criminals together because Jo is the fence who is selling our space weed. [laughter] And I think that wraps us back around to the beginning.

Jade: Yarp.

Sam: Yup.

Mab: All right. [Jade laughs] So, we're just going to go ahead and go in order. And so to set up, we have ten positive die and ten negative die. And as we go along, you can either establish a scene yourself, and then someone else will tell you how the outcome should go, either positive

or negatively. Or you can let someone else set up a scene for you, and then you decide if it goes well or poorly. And we start counting down those positive and negative die until we get through the first half, which will be ten scenes total, five- there's five of us, two for each of us. So... Yeah. Sam, if you wanna go ahead and get started, you can either decide to set up a scene, in which you dictate where it's at, who is in it with you, and then as you're going on, we'll tell you if it should end poorly or end well.

Sam: Okay.

Mab: Or again, you can also decide to resolve a scene, and we make it up for you, and then you decide if it ends or ends poorly.

Jade: And just to confirm, we are on a spaceship going somewhere. We're basically on a road trip. But it long.

Mab: Road trip! Space trip!

Alix: Road trip!

Jade: Do we wanna- yeah.

Han: It's like that movie with like, Chris Pratt and Jennifer Lawrence, where they're like, on a spaceship forever, but without the creepy misogyny.

Jade: And- yeah. Mmm.

Alix: Yup.

Sam: Okay, yeah, I'm just going to get this out of the way right away, and say I'm gonna do a scene with Han. And we're just-

Han: Okay.

Sam: -straight chilling. No. [laughter]

Alix: I don't know that it's- I don't know that it's straight.

Han: It's super not straight.

Sam: That's true. We are gay chilling. Why don't I say that Jo is hanging out in- our ship has an infirmary now, I've just decided.

Mab: Of course.

Han: No, I feel like that makes sense.

Jade: Definitely.

Sam: Since Evander's a doctor.

Han: Yup.

Sam: So Jo's just sort of chilling in the infirmary. I don't quite understand what we're [laughing] what I'm supposed to be doing to define a scene, I'm not gonna lie!

Alix: I mean, you could have gotten hurt somehow.

Mab: Yeah.

Sam: Yeah, maybe-

Mab: Or-

Sam: Maybe Jo pulled a muscle while lifting. [laughter]

Han: Sure. Sure. Okay.

Mab: Doctor please look, my muscle. [more laughter]

Alix: Stop spoiling the scene. [Sam laughs]

Mab: Um, and then yeah. So as it's going on, one of us will decide if it should start taking a negative turn or a positive turn. We'll go from there. And then I'll tell you what to do after.

Sam: Got it.

Han: Okay.

Sam: So, um, I guess I have to start. So Jo sort of enters the infirmary, he's kinda... He looks like he's in pain.

Han: Uh-huh.

Sam: 'Cause his arm is... I would say a little swollen. [laughter] Not swole as in like, [laughter increases] swole from lifting weights, but like, he looks like he hurt himself.

Han: Okay.

Sam: And he's just sort of, dramatically... throws himself onto one of the beds and goes,

Sam as Jo: Evander, I've hurt myself.

Han as Evander: How?

Sam as Jo: All right, so. First of all, you don't get to laugh at me for this. I'm getting that out of the way right now.

Han as Evander: Do I- do I look like I'm laughing? I'm not laughing. You've entered my professional space.

Sam as Jo: That's fair enough, that's fair enough. So me and Ara were lifting weights, down in the... uh... I don't know if I would call it a gym exactly. It's not really big enough for that. But we were, you know, we were just hanging out, and I dropped something on my arm. It was a weight.

Han as Evander: You-

Sam as Jo: It was quite heavy. I wasn't paying attention, it's fine, don't worry about, anyways. My arm really hurts.

Han as Evander: Okay.

Sam: Jo kind of like, holds his arm out to...

Han as Evander: Do- what- I'm not sure what you want me to do about this. Take some painkillers and go take a nap. I don't... What are you- what are you really doing here?

Sam as Jo: Can't I just come see you? [laughter] But like, actually.

Han as Evander: Can you?

Sam as Jo: I don't know. [laughter] Yeah.

Han as Evander: I mean...

Sam as Jo: Look, we're gonna be on this spaceship together for a long time.

Han as Evander: That's kind of the problem.

Sam: Jo kind of just like, sits on the bed, and is crossing his arms, looking off to the side like- all right, you know, I feel like we probably defined why their relationship is forbidden [laughing] like [crosstalk] before the scene.

Han: [crosstalk] No I kind of like it- I like it being like, very vague.

Sam: Like, ambiguous, like mmm, what's going on here? [makes an unsure noise]

Han: [dramatically] We can't.

Sam: Jo's just sort of sitting there like, [makes a sad noise].

Han: Yeah.

Han as Evander: We have so much time left on this trip, and we can't let this get in the way of making it through this trip intact.

Sam as Jo: I'm pretty sure that's not gonna be as much of an issue as you think it is. [Han as Evander sighs] I can be professional.

Alix: Am I just supposed to like- are we just supposed to like, speak up about giving people dice? Or...

Mab: Um, I threw it in the chat, 'cause technically it's like [crosstalk] let the game continue to flow.

Alix: [crosstalk] Oh, wow.

Sam: There it is.

Mab: Um...

Alix: Yeah, okay, I was gonna do that too, so good.

Han: Oh, okay. So basically that means like we have to then make it a negative thing.

Mab: Yeah, you just kind of start- like, it just doesn't end well for you.

Han: Okay.

Mab: Basically Jo doesn't get what he wanted.

Han: Okay.

Alix: Okay.

Han: Um, yeah.

Sam: This is homophobia. [laughter]

Han: Uh-huh. You chose forbidden affection.

Sam: It's true.

Han as Evander: Look, Jo, we- you're... great... But, I'm here in a capacity that doesn't allow for this.

Sam: Jo's just gonna kind of, stand up. He's got this sort of haughty expression on his face. He's like,

Sam as Jo: Well, forgive me for assuming that you could be professional and also have a personal life.

Han as Evander: Listen, do you want painkillers or not?

Sam as Jo: I mean yes I do. My arm still does very much hurt.

Han as Evander: Okay. Well, I can at least give you those. Just don't lift anything for a while. And... We can talk about this later.

Sam as Jo: Come find me when you're ready to talk. [laughter]

Sam: Jo just like-

Han: Aww.

Sam: -takes a bottle of painkillers and storms out. He is...

Han: Takes the whole damn bottle, I love it.

Sam: He just steals the bottle, he's like, fine. Grabs the bottle out of this guy's hand

Alix: Five cups of painkillers.

Sam: Just leaves.

Han: Yup. Okay.

Mab: Um. So... yeah, you were awarded a negative dice, and-

Sam: Uh-huh.

Mab: -in the first half, what you're going to do is you're going to take that negative die, and assign it to somebody else.

Sam: Got it. So I have to just like, pass it on to someone else.

Mab: Yeah, so it's, um... probably like someone- so it would generally just be someone in the scene, or someone that helped instigate the scene in the first place, so if you wanna give it to Ara for being like, "It's your fault I got hurt"-

Sam: Yeah.

Mab: -or if you wanna give it to [crosstalk] whoever, yeah.

Sam: [crosstalk] So I just like, put it in the little...

Mab: The little negative box, yeah.

Sam: The negative box. So I'll just like, put a one there, or put a negative? Put a little dash there on Ara.

Mab: Yeah.

Alix: It's not my fault your relationship is falling apart.

Sam: Fuck you.

Han: It's not a relationship! [laughter]

Alix: Oh my god.

Jade: Dang. Dang.

Han: Dang.

Jade: I've marked off that one negative dice has been used as well.

Han: Cool.

Mab: Thank you.

Jade: I didn't know if that was important. Yeah.

Mab: Um, yeah, so. Evander.

Han: Fucking, okay. Okay... I would- well okay so, can we go over what the difference is between establishing and finishing- 'cause like, on your turn, you don't have to establish, right? You can let someone else establish your scene.

Mab: Right. Basically, so if you want to finish a scene, you would say, "hey, I want to resolve," and so you decide- you're the one who gets to decide if it's a positive or a negative outcome.

Han: Okay.

Mab: And then someone else will just be like, "oh, well, then you should be with these people."

Han: I think I'm gonna do that.

Mab: Okay.

Han: Um, so, I'll resolve, so someone else gets to establish this scene.

Alix: Okay. I think you should do a scene with Davey.

Han: Okay.

Alix: Although I'm trying to think of more specifics. Does anybody have more ideas of where this like, traitor confrontation can happen?

Mab: So yeah, are we going to go off the assumption that Davey knows Evander is a traitor, or on the ship?

Han: Ooh.

Alix: I mean, this could be the scene where you find out.

Jade: Ooh.

Alix: Or, or, you know, you could be-

Han: I also kind of like it being like, I know I'm a traitor, but you think I'm still an ally.

Jade: Ooh.

Mab: Yeah.

Jade: That's good.

Alix: Yeah.

Han: It's Fiasco, after all.

Mab: I hope-

Alix: So maybe-

Mab: I hope Kari confronts you on my behalf later.

Alix: I think- so I feel like- yeah, I think maybe Davey is like, I don't know, whatever this betrayal's about, maybe is working on that, you know what I mean?

Mab: [whispering] Top ten anime betrayals.

Alix: What?

Mab: I said top ten anime betrayals.

Han: [crosstalk] Yeah.

Alix: [crosstalk] Yeah. This is gonna be a top ten anime betrayal, but not yet.

Mab: Not yet.

Alix: I mean, maybe it could have to do with- maybe they're like, testing out that taser, or something.

Han: [laughs] Sure.

Mab: [laughing] Testing it out on me.

Alix: Not on each other! Jesus Christ. [laughter] I'm just like, you know, if that weapons is like, part of your relationship, maybe it's like a really, really deadly taser.

Han: Maybe it's your family's ancestral taser. [laughter]

Alix: Yeah, that's good too.

Mab: Good god. [more laughter] Yeah.

Alix: Okay, I think you guys should be testing/inspecting the ancestral taser.

Han: Where are we?

Alix: In the- the room with all the- the armory.

Han: In the armoury, okay.

Mab: Yeah.

Han: I always feel like that's like a Clue set-up, like, in the armory, with the taser.

Alix: Yes. In the armory, with the taser.

Mab: Don't kill me yet.

Han: [laughs] Okay.

Mab: Yeah. So yeah, you can come into the room, and Davey's there, just inspecting the beautifully decorated box that his beautiful, ancestral taser is in.

Han: Yeah...

Mab: I have to say everything very dramatically.

Han as Evander: Do you know what you're doing with that? 'Cause-

Mab as Davey: I'm not poking myself with it. That's the important thing, isn't it?

Han as Evander: I mean, I just wanted to make sure. 'Cause that would be a whole lot of mess for me to clean up later if... you know.

Mab as Davey: Evander, you're the doctor, that's what you're here for. To make sure that if any of us get hurt, that we'll be safe and secure afterwards.

Han as Evander: Well, yes, I will absolutely treat any sort of taser-related injuries. I am also in the business of preventing injuries as well, so I just wanted to make sure you know what you're doing with that.

Mab as Davey: Of course I do, it is my family's taser. I've been taught how to handle it since I was a wee little babe.

Han as Evander: Okay. Okay. I didn't- I didn't mean to offend. I- I mean-

Mab as Davey: It's all right.

Han as Evander: I know your family, it's...

Mab as Davey: It's all right.

Han as Evander: I know how you all operate. It's fine. Listen, how are you, uh... How are you holding up?

Mab as Davey: [sighs] I've been better, of course. but, you know, a new stage, a new set to explore. It will get better than it has been. It's all right. I'm glad you're here with me.

Han as Evander: Of course. You know it. It's... I'm glad you're here as well.

Mab as Davey: Means so much to me. [sniffs] Thank you.

Han as Evander: Listen. [sighs] Just, be careful with that. We... I trust that you know what you're doing with it, I don't trust that everyone else on the ship knows what they're doing if they were to, uh... get their hands on... that.

Mab as Davey: They shouldn't! It is biocoded to me, so.

Han as Evander: Well, right.

Mab as Davey: I don't expect anyone to cut off my hands. You'll make sure they won't cut off my hands, won't you?

Han as Evander: I mean, I can't... I can sew your hand back on, but I'm not your bodyguard.

Mab as Davey: Ah! I'll talk to Kari about it. He'll make sure that no one cuts off my hands.

Han as Evander: That's probably a good move, you should- you should definitely talk to Kari about it.

Mab as Davey: All right.

Han as Evander: And you can come to me if it does get cut off.

Mab as Davey: But what if I can't find the hand after it gets cut off?

Han as Evander: Lis- uh-

Mab as Davey: What am I supposed to do then? What if-

Han as Evander: Davey.

Mab as Davey: -I'm lying on the floor-

Han as Evander: Davey. Davey.

Mab as Davey: -bleeding out?

Han as Evander: Davey.

Mab as Davey: Yes, yes?

Han as Evander: Deep breaths. [Mab as Davey takes a deep breath] Okay. [Mab as Davey takes another] No one's going to cut off your hand.

Mab as Davey: Okay. You just never know when you've been, you know, what happened to everyone else in the family.

Han as Evander: Listen. You're gonna be fine.

Mab as Davey: Okay. Thank you. All right. I trust you.

Han: Okay good, I think that's a net positive. [laughter] Cool. Um... Okay. And I think I'm gonna give that positive die to Kari for [laughing] getting me out of that situation. By proxy.

Jade: No worries.

Han: Okay.

Mab: All right. So yeah, I think the best option then, I'll set up the scene with Davey going to Kari [laughter] and...

Jade: I guess that before- before we start that scene-

Mab: Yeah.

Jade: I just have to say because I forgot for a split second what your character's name was, so I genuinely thought Evander was like, "Baby, baby, baby, baby, baby."

Han: Oh my god.

Alix: Oh my god! [laughter]

Han: That happens later. Don't worry. We can get there.

Jade: Okay, okay, okay. Okay.

Mab: Okay!

Jade: Okay.

Mab: So yeah, where would Kari most likely be at this point in time?

Jade: Uh, I feel like maybe he's up in the very small cockpit/bridge- I'm imagining it a bit like the Serenity, so it's like the size of a small room. There's a couple of chairs in there. And like, he's just chilling in there.

Mab: Okay. Davey's gonna come find you. Does anybody else want to be in the scene, possibly driving, like if Ara or Jo wanna be in there also to experience the overflow of emotions that will take place. [laughter] All right.

Alix: I think I'm good.

Mab: Okay, don't worry.

Jade: In which case, I'll be reading a book. Like, an old school book. Like paper and everything.

Mab: So Davey just pushes open the door, and then like, dramatically leans against it.

Mab as Davey: Kari! I'm afraid! I'm afraid for my life! And I'm afraid for my hands! And the life of my hands! [laughter]

Jade as Kari: Okay...

Jade: Slowly puts the book down. Gives you my- gives the full attention.

Jade as Kari: Why are you specifically worried about your hands?

Mab as Davey: Because, I was- I was just talking to Evander.

Jade as Kari: Mm-hmm.

Mab as Davey: We were in the armory.

Jade as Kari: Okay.

Mab as Davey: And... I was talking about how the box that holds my family's taser is biocoded-

Jade as Kari: Mm-hmm.

Mab as Davey: -and then it came to me in a flash. A vision! An epiphany! What if someone cuts off my hand to open the box and gets the taser? Like, Evander said that there's nothing he can do to prevent my hands being cut off, which is fair. I accept that. But...

Jade as Kari: I mean...

Mab as Davey: You have- can you help? Can you... I just worry about my hands.

Jade as Kari: Okay.

Mab as Davey: Can you hold my hands? [laughter]

Jade as Kari: Okay well, first off, yeah okay.

Jade: And I take your hands in mine. And look at you.

Jade as Kari: Well first off, if it makes you feel better, maybe sleep with your hands under your pillow, so your head is on top of your hands. So nobody'll be able to get them while you're sleeping. That's a thing we can do. And-

Mab: He nods, slowly, and understanding.

Mab as Davey: I see, I see. A good idea.

Jade as Kari: I try. I mean, I think you're going to notice, it's a big ship. It's not a big ship even. It's really quite a small ship. If somebody starts trying to cut your hand off, you just yell really loudly and I will come, and I will punch them in the face. For starters, and then I can do some more stuff. I'm not gonna let somebody cut your hands off.

Mab as Davey: I'm so glad.

Jade as Kari: Okay.

Mab as Davey: You've really set my mind and my heart at ease. [sniffs]

Jade as Kari: I'm so glad? I could- I... Really, hun, I don't think anyone's gonna chop your hands off. Like, everyone here on- nobody-

Mab as Davey: I just- You know what happened to my family, though.

Jade as Kari: Yeah, I know. And it's a nice taser hun, but it's not like, chop off hand worthy. It's more important to you than to somebody else.

Mab as Davey: Okay.

Jade as Kari: Okay?

Mab as Davey: I'll take- I believe you. Yes, it's true. It is just, you know, it's a family heirloom.

Jade as Kari: Yeah.

Mab as Davey: So why would anyone want a- a dumb old taser anyway, even those the box is beautifully [crosstalk] and immaculately carved by masters of their profession.

Jade as Kari: [crosstalk] It is. It is. Yeah. I can't fault that.

Mab as Davey: I mean, they can just sell the box and... afterwards, it's fine, I'll be fine. If they do that.

Jade as Kari: Okay. You sure?

Mab as Davey: Not like it means anything. Mm-hmm.

Jade as Kari: Okay. You wanna take a couple deep breaths with me? You know. [takes a deep breath]

Mab as Davey: [takes a deep breath as well, but his is much more raspy and stressed]

Jade as Kari: Try again, no no no, less, less, mmm. Just less.

Mab as Davey: [takes a better breath]

Jade as Kari: There we go. There we go.

Mab as Davey: [a deep sigh] Thank you. I'm afraid I might start hyperventilating if everyone keeps telling me to take deep breaths.

Jade as Kari: Yeah no, don't do that. I mean, we've a good oxygen scrubber on here, but I'd hate for you to like, dial up the CO2 levels just by yourself.

Mab as Davey: Mm-hmm. It's true, it's true. You know how I can be. [laughs]

Jade as Kari: Very aware.

Mab as Davey: All right.

Jade as Kari: It's fine.

Mab as Davey: Thank you.

Jade as Kari: It's fine!

Mab as Davey: Thank you Kari.

Jade as Kari: Okay.

Mab as Davey: All right, I'll- I'll- You don't mind if I sit here a little bit, I'll be quiet and you can go back to reading.

Jade as Kari: That's fine, just...

Mab as Davey: All right.

Jade as Kari: Yeah, that- that- that- Evander said- right, okay, yeah, okay.

Mab as Davey: Yeah.

Jade as Kari: Cool.

Mab as Davey: It's true.

Jade as Kari: Cool.

Mab as Davey: All right, thank you.

Jade as Kari: No problem.

Mab as Davey: All right.

Mab: I think that's a good scene. [laughter] I'm gonna give you that positive die. Thanks for sticking through with Davey.

Han: A quote-unquote positive scene.

Alix: Yeah.

Jade: Uh, I will give that positive die to-

Mab: No, I'm giving it to you.

Jade: Oh. Sweet.

Mab: You get to keep it.

Jade: Ooh!

Mab: Don't give it away.

Jade: Don't-

Mab as Davey: Don't give away my gift to you! Kari! [laughter] [sighs]

Jade: All right. All right, all right. Um... I wanna have a scene with Ara.

Alix: All right, we're just going down the line here.

Jade: Yeah, yeah, just want to...

Mab: It's a good establishing, yeah.

Jade: Yeah, it's more just like... um, actually. Yeah, no. I'll establish the scene, I'll let somebody else resolve it. So we're down in the small cargo hold.

Alix: Okay.

Jade: And we're just sort of like, checking on the contraband and discussing the contraband. [laughs]

Alix: Okay. Sure.

Mab: Testing-

Jade: I also just want to establish that fact-

Mab: -the contraband.

Jade as Kari: So Ara, this fence you've got for this, like, they're cool, right? I've not had a chance to speak to them yet. Are they okay?

Alix as Ara: It's uh, it's probably best if you don't know who it is. Just, you know, if they- if you ever get questioned.

Jade as Kari: I mean, there's like, four other- there's three other people on this ship. Like.

Alix as Ara: And it could be any one of those three.

Jade as Kari: Well, I can guarantee you it's not Davey. So... I mean, that leaves two people.

Alix as Ara: Do you- listen. Listen to me. Do you want to get taken in and questioned by the police when we get to, uh, when we get to Europa?

Jade as Kari: Look, I've never met a policeman I couldn't have around my little finger, like, in about thirty seconds, but I take your point. You don't have to tell me if it's Evander or Jo, it's fine.

Alix as Ara: You don't have enough respect for authority.

Jade as Kari: Well, there's a reason I'm not in the military anymore. [laughter] Do you want me to call you sir again? Will that make you feel better? I can call you sir. [laughter]

Alix: Sorry, my headphone fell out. No, I heard that, don't worry. But [laughs]

Alix as Ara: No, I- you say it in a mocking way and I don't enjoy it.

Jade as Kari: I can say it- look, I'll say it in a nice way, if you like.

Alix as Ara: No, listen.

Alix: I think he's blushing a little bit at that.

Alix as Ara: [crosstalk] Listen, I-

Jade as Kari: [crosstalk] It's a good color on you, sir.

Alix as Ara: [spluttering] All right. Fine, it's uh-

Jade as Kari: I'm sorry. I'm being a dick, I'm sorry.

Alix as Ara: It's... It's fine. Listen. It's... I'll tell you, all right, it's uh... it's Jo.

Jade as Kari: Okay. Huh. Wouldn't have- wouldn't have picked- okay, sure. And you trust him?

Alix as Ara: But-

Jade as Kari: You trust him?

Alix as Ara: You're- yes.

Jade as Kari: Okay. Then I trust him too.

Alix as Ara: But, you're- you can't tell Evander, all right.

Jade as Kari: Okay, sure.

Jade: I give you a little salute. Just a little snappy one. [laughter]

Jade as Kari: I can even click my heels together if you really want me to oversell it.

Alix as Ara: I want you to take this seriously.

Jade as Kari: [with gusto] Yes sir! [laughter]

Alix as Ara: [sighs] God. All right, I don't have many choice, so this is... [sighs] Look, I took a risk telling you about this contraband, all right. Don't make me regret that.

Jade as Kari: When have I ever made you regret anything? Except possibly this conversation right now.

Alix as Ara: Well, there was that one time that you mixed up my appointments and I was an hour late to meet with the admiral.

Jade as Kari: Yeah, okay no, that was me. But in- in- in- no, there isn't a defense. I'm sorry.

Alix as Ara: I have to be- we have to be professional. All right? I'm going to be professional in this.

Jade as Kari: Okay.

Alix: All right- I know this is a negative scene, I think that the negative of it is just, I mean. [sighs] Does it have to be negative like in the scene or does there have to be like- because if it does, then I feel like... Ara trusts Kari less.

Jade: Mmm.

Mab: Yeah, I think it- I can definitely feel the mood of it.

Alix: Mm-hmm.

Mab: Like, their relationship getting tenser. So yeah, that makes sense.

Jade: Yeah, sure.

Alix: Mm-hmm. Although you know, I was thinking... I don't know, if it was outside the scene, then maybe actually telling him about Jo was a bad idea. But... [laughs]

Jade: I mean, both can be true. Like...

Alix: That's true. There's no limit of bad things.

Han: It's Fiasco!

Jade: It's Fiasco!

Mab: So yeah, so, Jade, you can go ahead and give away that dice.

Jade: Okay. Um... I'm gonna give that over to Sam. Because, again, Jo getting dragged into that. So...

Sam: Oh good.

Alix: Mm-hmm.

Han: I love it.

Sam: Thanks for the negative dice.

Mab: Listen, it could end up fine. It could end up fine, you never know.

Jade: It's about balance and stuff, it's not about like, just, yeah. It'll be fine.

Mab: Yeah. It'll be fine.

Alix: Okay, all right. I think I'm gonna break the chain a little bit, because I want a scene... I think I'll establish this scene with Davey.

Mab: Okay.

Alix: I think what's basically happening is that Ara wants to find- like, make sure that Davey, like, isn't going to mess up the contraband plans. So I think... Ara just shows up and knocks on Davey's like, personal quarters.

Mab: Mm-hmm. Davey's on his bed. He's got his hands behind his head, you know, underneath his head, just to be safe, and...

Alix: Oh my god.

Mab: -has like, a little, like a little- he's got a book propped up on his knees, because he can't hold it up with his hands, 'cause he's just being very cautious.

Jade: Oh...

Alix: Jesus Christ.

Mab: And it's a very uncomfortable position. But somehow, he manages.

Alix: Okay.

Mab: I don't know if they have halo screens. I don't think we're that far in the future.

Alix: No. I mean, almost certainly if we still have books.

Mab: Okay, so he has it on his lap, and he's sitting on his hands instead.

Alix: All right, well, Ara knocks.

Mab: Uh... Ooh, uh... come in! [laughter]

Alix as Ara: Uh... H-Hey Davey.

Mab as Davey: Ara!

Alix as Ara: Can I call you that? Uh...

Mab as Davey: Yes, I don't know what else you would call me.

Alix as Ara: I mean, you know, Your Highness? I don't...

Mab as Davey: Oh, please. Your Highness was my father. [laughter]

Han: This fucking guy.

Jade: Jesus...

Alix: Okay. All right, Ara walks over and like, walks over to the bed, and like, glances at it, like as if asking, can I sit on the bed?

Mab: He scoots over, and drops his book, and is like [makes nervous noises] Okay. And just kind of like, resolves himself to pick it up, and puts it aside and folds his hands in his lap. Like, pins them between his knees, so they're safe and secure away. [laughter]

Alix as Ara: Davey... you seem tense.

Mab as Davey: Do I? Oh, I don't know, it's- it's- space travel never really agrees with me.

Alix as Ara: Is there something wrong with your hands? You know you can get Evander to look at that.

Mab as Davey: No, no, it's fine, they're just- cold in space, it's very cold in here. Keeping them warm.

Alix as Ara: Oh, well, I- may I see your hands?

Mab as Davey: [very high pitched] Why?

Alix as Ara: I just... if you're cold, I feel like... my hands are pretty big, I could probably keep them warm. [laughter]

Mab as Davey: Oh. Um... okay...

Mab: And he holds out his hands very hesitantly, but also very dramatically.

Alix: All right, I think then Ara takes them both in both of his hands and then like, you know, slowly, trying not to scare him, kisses the back of one of them.

Han: [whispering] Holy shit.

Sam: [whispering] That's gay.

Mab: Davey's just dumbfounded.

Alix as Ara: I mean, this is what you're supposed to do with royalty, right? [laughter]

Mab as Davey: Uh... Uh... I mean... I- I- I- Mmm. Sure. Yes. [clears throat] Yeah. Yeah. Sure. Keep going. Fine. [laughter]

Alix: Yeah okay so, so basically, Ara's plan here is to seduce him and then like, later go through all of his stuff to see if he knows that he's in on the contraband.

Jade: Perfect. [sighs] It's good.

Alix: So yeah, I think he kisses the other hand. And just says,

Alix as Ara: I know that... things happened unfortunately with your family.

Mab as Davey: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Alix as Ara: And I just-

Mab as Davey: It's true.

Alix as Ara: I'm just so sorry to hear that, you know?

Alix: And just keeps kissing the hands. [laughter]

Han: God...

Alix as Ara: And, I, you know, I just want to offer comfort.

Mab: Davey just gives a very fond smile and flips- takes one of his hands and puts it beneath Ara's chin, and then pats his cheek with the other one. He goes,

Mab as Davey: You're a very sweet boy. Thank you.

Mab: Even though- he's a man, isn't he? He's older.

Alix: Yup.

Mab: Who knows? [laughter]

Jade: That would definitely be the impression I got, yup.

Alix: He would definitely blush at that. [Mab laughs]

Mab as Davey: I am- I am quite wonderful, thank you. I appreciate-

Alix as Ara: You are wonderful.

Mab as Davey: Oh. [laughs] I- I appreciate the sentiment so much. It means so much to me that there are still people who appreciate me and my legacy.

Alix as Ara: Your legacy is so important to me.

Alix: And I think he's like- he like, leans in closer.

Mab: [laughs] I'm surprised you didn't go for a leg joke there. Um...

Alix: I mean I was- you know. He's like- he's kind of trying to kiss him, but like, ready to back off if that's not what's happening.

Mab: I think Davey's a little too dumb to figure that out. But... [laughter] He will just gently guide Ara's face back a little bit. And says, like you know, pats him now on both cheeks with both hands.

Alix as Ara: I- I'm sorry if I overstepped.

Mab as Davey: It's fine. It's... Just... give me a moment. Give me a moment here. I'm not, you know- it's- it's been rough, it's- hmmph.

Alix as Ara: It is rough, yes.

Alix: I think he's still holding his hands and is just like, rubbing them with his thumbs a little bit. [laughter]

Alix as Ara: Listen, is there anything that you need from me? Anything at all?

Mab as Davey: Just... as long as- if I start yelling for help, perhaps you can come and rescue me. It'll be very dramatic.

Alix as Ara: I mean... Yes? Sure. I can do that. Listen, do you mind if I stay here for a little while? It's just, like you said, it's cold, and I just- I'm lonely, you know. It would be nice to just... hang out here.

Han: Oh...

Mab as Davey: Listen.

Mab: And he puts his book aside now instead of just putting it down. And he shifts his hands so that they're holding Ara's. And he says,

Mab as Davey: If there's anything I can do for you, please, let me know. It is my duty, both as a prince and as a member of this crew, to help those in need, and those who need my help.

Mab: He's like, making himself teary-eyed with the speech.

Sam: I like that he always sounds like he's like, about to cry.

Jade: It's very good.

Mab: It's true. [laughs]

Alix as Ara: Then, I simply ask that you allow me to stay here a little longer tonight.

Mab as Davey: You are welcome to stay as long as you wish, if that is what you desire.

Alix: Okay, I think we can probably stop it there.

Han: [starts singing the intro to Marvin Gaye's "Let's Get It On"]

Alix: Well, I don't know that that happens, because like... I don't think-

Mab: Davey's a dumbass.

Alix: Because Ara thinks that like, pushing him back from the kiss was like, a rejection, and so what happens is Ara just stays there until there's like- and this is a positive scene- until like, there's some lapse in attention from Davey, like if Davey falls asleep or starts reading his book again, and then like tries to get information. And I think does end up with like, useful information, although I'm not sure what that information is yet. [crosstalk] 'Cause this is a positive scene.

Mab: [crosstalk] That information is: that Davey knows jack shit.

Alix: Okay, cool.

Jade: About pretty much anything, apparently.

Mab: Yeah, if we're being completely honest...

Alix: All right.

Mab: He can tell you what color your eyes remind him of, but that's about it.

Alix: Oh my god. Is it the sea?

Han: Your eyes are an ocean. [laughter]

Alix: Okay. So I get the positive die, right?

M; You get to give it to somebody else.

[theme music begins- dice shaking, cards shuffling]

Alix: All right, I think I'm gonna give it to- I think I'm gonna give it to Davey. [laughter] Because I've learned that you're not messing with my plans.

Mab: Yeah.

Alix: All right, I guess I should take [indiscernible]

Mab: Can we take like a quick break? [fades out]

[theme music plays]