

PLAYBILL®

SCRANTON, PENNA.

M.J. Dougherty & Monty Geer

PRESENT

No Clue

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INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - DUSK

A decrepit door is enveloped in darkness. EVAN (29) goofy, impulsive and unaccomplished, bursts in and locks it.

EVAN
This isn't happening. This isn't
happening.

A KNIFE SHATTERS through the door.

EVAN (CONT'D)
AHHH! It's happening!

The handle shakes and someone fiercely slams into the wood.

EVAN (CONT'D)
The door's locked, psycho. You'll
have to find another way to-

Evan is hurled to the ground as the hinges fly off. He bashes his head and a ghastly HOODED FIGURE trudges in.

EVAN (CONT'D)
You found it.

His knife tears across Evan's chest. He swings again, Evan blocks with his hand. The blade carves through his palm.

EVAN (CONT'D)
My hand! My hand? Ah, terrible
strategy!

The figure slowly pulls the knife out of Evan's palm. Evan runs and gets repetitively STABBED IN THE BACK.

The figure runs away as blood flies onto a playbill. A HAND picks it up.

REVEAL: an entire audience watching the murder.

BANG, another door opens and NORA, RAY, BRUCE, KAYLA, and LUCAS run out to see Evan's mutilated corpse.

RAY
Oh. My. God!

Kayla bends down and with a shaking voice turns to the group.

KAYLA
Who did this???

NORA
We're the only one's here.

BRUCE
Which means one of us is... the
murderer.

Title Card: **NO CLUE.**

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - 10PM

Drinks stack up and Halloween decorations surround the room. A woman dries tears listening to the closing monologue of BRUCE (55) a retired accountant who wishes he was a cop.

Nora (28) type A and the only one who is actually trying to have a good performance stares down RAY (35) a flamboyant, sarcastic and elegantly dressed black man. They all wear 1920's clothing.

Evan has been "dead" and laying on the floor for three hours.

BRUCE
The poison wasn't strong enough.
That is why the murderer is none
other... than Professor Bridges!

RAY (PROFESSOR BRIDGES)
You'd be dead too if I checked the
cyanide's expiration date.

NORA
Thank god the killer has finally
been discovered. For I will
treasure Miss Hanson, my secret
lover.

JEAN, (68) their grizzled yet organized manager, stands in the back and crosses off the last scene of the day.

JEAN
Stop adding monologues, Nora.
Another show down, only one more
show to go.

GABE (45) clean cut and nerdy enters as the host of the show.

GABE
Ladies and Gentlemen, case closed!

The crowd erupts to an incredible show.

GABE (CONT'D)
Have fun trick or treating
tomorrow! But please don't trick.
(MORE)

GABE (CONT'D)
Remember, it wasn't long ago that
toilet paper was a precious
commodity.

Everyone is congratulated for a stunning performance.

Everyone but Evan.

WOMAN
I've never cried harder and all I
do at work is watch videos of
Veterans reunite with their dogs!

Evan shoves buffet food into his pocket. Jean walks up with
LUCAS, (32) an overly confident model covered in tattoos.

LUCAS
Evan, your three hours of laying on
the floor was the most life I've
seen in your performance.

EVAN
Thanks... I guess. I feel if I had
more lines-

JEAN
You do enough.

EVAN
I don't do anything.

JEAN
That's more than enough.

They leave and Evan sullenly puts pork chops in his pockets.
Nora hands her business card to guests walking away.

NORA
Thanks for coming, please consider
me for future productions. Thanks
for coming, please consider...

Bruce, Ray and Jean take a group photo.

JEAN
To the Three Musketeers!

They crop out Evan, who eats noodles with tongs from a tray.

EXT/INT. BUS - CONTINUOUS

Gabe parks. The bus is creaky and old and still too expensive
for what they can afford. He plays a monotonous golf podcast.

PODCASTER (RADIO)
His Masters ranking started low and
he climbed that ladder. But then he
had his decline... after he fell
off that ladder.

NORA
Can we listen to something else?

GABE
Driver picks music and this driver
picks "Good Morning, Golf".

NORA
You're the only one who can drive a
bus.

GABE
Should have thought about that and
got your commercial driving
license.

Gabe cranks the podcast up.

INT. BUS - MIDNIGHT

Nora can't concentrate on her scenes for tomorrow's show.

PODCASTER (RADIO)
There's a difference between a 25-
year-old and a 45-year-old player.
Most people think the biggest
difference is their endurance. I
think the biggest difference is
their age.

Lucas watches a horror film on his laptop as KAYLA (24), an
aloof yoga lover, meditates. The movie is loud.

NORA
Lucas, can you use headphones?

LUCAS
Can't. They're in my pockets and
I'll miss half the movie trying to
dig them out of these skinny jeans.

He turns up the volume. Kayla breaks from meditating.

KAYLA
This bus is a negative hole.

LUCAS

Don't call Nora a negative hole.
Sure, she is one, but don't say it
to her negative hole face.

Kayla lights sage and flutters it around the bus. She wears
an expensive gold bracelet that jingles in their faces.

Nora snatches the sage and launches it out the window. She
slams Lucas laptop closed and leans over to Evan.

NORA

I was trash last night. I need to
run my scenes with you.

EVAN

Okay, I can read everyone else's
dialogue.

NORA

No, I'll act their lines in my
head. I just need you to look at me
as I do.

EVAN

What?

NORA

Perfect, just like that. But
without the talking.

EVAN

I can help.

NORA

This helps more. You're not busy?

EVAN

I could be working on stuff-

NORA

What stuff?

EVAN

Important stuff.

NORA

You don't have stuff.

EVAN

I'm all stuff.

(beat)

I'm trading stocks. It's a busy
day. There's a bear in the market.

He sinks away to shoot zombie bears on his phone. He clicks an in-game purchase. A notification from his bank pops up:

INSUFFICIENT FUNDS. OVERDRAFT FEE APPLIED.

Evan sighs.

PODCASTER (RADIO)

I see my divorce as a mulligan. My ex-wife sees it as my fault.

JEAN

Gabe, turn that shit off! Last show tomorrow, to celebrate it's an open bar. When we finish at 10pm I'll transfer everyone their \$50,000.

RAY

Ugh, this tour has been the slowest six months. I'm wasting my youth.

(beat)

Is what you white people should say because I'm not aging. Someone guess my age.

KAYLA

Mid 40's?

RAY

I'm 35 but look 25! Someone else guess my age but guess the age I want you to guess!

BRUCE

How many tours have you done with Mr. Schiffer's company?

JEAN

Too many, he's a monster. He hasn't paid past performers for the most minor break in a contract. He will screw us if I'm not organized.

GABE

You're a great tour manager, Jean. Thanks for keeping us safe.

The bus slams into the curb.

GABE (CONT'D)

Oops. Lots of blinds spots. It's harder to drive than it looks.

RAY

Does anyone have a charger? Mine broke and I need to check my emails to distract myself from Tourgatory.

JEAN

Wanna use my phone?

RAY

Sure. What's the passcode?

She types it in front of him.

RAY (CONT'D)

To the Three Musketeers.

BRUCE

To the Three Musketeers!

JEAN

To the Three Musketeers!

EVAN

Technically there were four characters in the "Three Musketeers".

RAY

Oh, no, honey. You're not wanted.

EVAN

To the Four Musketeers!

They drive past houses in the night which are illuminated with horrid Halloween decorations.

BRUCE

Scranton takes Halloween seriously.

EVAN

We do, I'm from here. Moved out years ago.

RAY

Ew. You would be from Scranton.

EVAN

What does that mean?

JEAN

I like Scranton, it's... small and... simple. Also, forgettable because I can't remember anything else.

EVAN
I get what it means.

EXT. BEAUTIFUL HOTEL - LATER

They drive past an elegant hotel that resembles an early 20th century train station.

JEAN
Here we are. Last performance so we wanted to do something special.

RAY
This hotel is beautiful! I feel like Eloise!

JEAN
Beautiful and way too expensive.
THAT'S our hotel.

EXT. RUNDOWN MOTEL - CONTINUOUS

They pull up to a dilapidated motel. A man is breaking into a car. He freezes... then waves. Gabe waves back.

RAY
I feel like Eloise if she was human trafficked. What's special about this dump?

JEAN
24 hours of free bagels. Don't eat the blueberry ones though. It's not blue berries, it's blue mold.

INT. EVAN'S MOTEL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Evan peers in the shower while eating a "blueberry" bagel.

EVAN
Back home in Scranton.
(ref soap)
Nice. Grey Stone!

He adds the soap to a suitcase filled with hotel items.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. NORA'S MOTEL ROOM - SAME

Blood stains the carpet.

NORA
I hope that's juice.

A woman screams in the distance. Nora closes her door.

NORA (CONT'D)
Didn't hear that.

Evan calls Nora. She clicks ignores.

NORA (CONT'D)
Didn't hear that either.

Evan calls Ray. Ray, Jean and Bruce sing karaoke in Ray's room. They ignore his call.

Evan calls Gabe who listens to excessively loud techno as he practices his golf swing in his room. He can't hear the call.

Evan calls Kayla. Kayla's hand grabs her phone then another hand and pushes it away. Lucas and Kayla are having sex.

Evan deflates. His cell rings and he knocks over a lamp answering.

EVAN
Wanna get dinner, they have every
kind of bagel? As in the only thing
left is everything bagels.

AUTOMATED MESSAGE (PHONE)
This is reminder from Iron Clad
Debt Collectors your payment of
\$4,800 is three months past...

Evan joylessly drinks a mini vodka from his suitcase.

EXT. SCRANTON MANSION - THE NEXT EVENING

A gothic and misty mansion sits back on the corner of the street. Gabe parks in a tight space alongside the house.

GABE
Annnnd...

The bus slams into a skeleton decoration.

GABE (CONT'D)
Got it.

Everyone crawls out. Gabe tosses Jean the keys. Weird shaped pumpkins surround the building.

LUCAS

After seeing these jack-o-lanterns
the only carving I wanna do is
carve out my eyes.

Evan looks over and sees a beautiful girl, SOFIA (29) a dry tomboy, smoking a cigarette by an old Honda.

EVAN

Sofia. Shit.

A young child stands in a field beyond the house.

NORA

One of our guests and soon to be
fans. Hello, little girl, you ready
for the show?

The girl seems ghostly. She lowers and disappears into the tall grass. Frantic movements follow as if she's an animal.

GABE

Oookay.

BRUCE

What was that?

GABE

Probably some stupid TikTok dance.

JEAN

Focus. All we gotta do is keep the
audience happy for one more show to
get paid.

LUCAS

All Evan has to do is sleep on the
floor to get paid.

EVAN

Actually, maybe I shouldn't be in
this show? We can let Lucas do-

JEAN

No, stay on script. Nothing to mess
up Mr. Schiffer's contracts. Deal?

EVERYONE

Deal.

EVAN

Yeah... I'm in. Should be easy.
Scranton has the nicest people.

INT. MANSION - CONTINUOUS

They walk in on a heated conversation. A waiter, MIKEY (30's attractive farm-boy) grabs TOM (60's and obese) by the arm.

MIKEY

What do you think you're doing?

TOM

I don't have to answer to you.

MIKEY

You do when you are stealing.

TOM

It's wine- to cook with. I'm the
caterer!

MIKEY

Don't grab from my bar again.

They turn to look at the group. Tom leaves. Mikey goes the other way and aggressively slams the door.

EVAN

Welcome to Scranton.

INT. MEETING HALL - LATER

Guest wear extravagant Halloween costumes. Nora approaches Sofia, who is a bartender out of uniform.

NORA

I'm talent, where's my dressing
room?

SOFIA

I don't know what you said but if
you want to get dressed, broom
closet is to your left or feel free
to get naked in your car.

Lucas sneaks up to Evan.

LUCAS

So, "Sofia. Shit." What's that
about?"

EVAN

Oh- you heard that? We dated all through high school and college.

LUCAS

You went to college? I assumed you were homeschooled by flat Earthers.

EVAN

I can't have Sofia watch me laying on the floor for three hours. It's humiliating.

LUCAS

Not as humiliating as if she watched you perform.

Evan holds a pumpkin in front of his face as he walks away.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Everyone frantically gets ready. Ray applies excessive powder to his body. Kayla meditates. They all wear 1920's costumes.

The waiter, Mikey, brings a box into the pantry. Inside Nora has taped a phone on a mirror to make a vanity.

MIKEY

What are you doing in here?

NORA

Vocal warmups for my job. The acoustics make it soundproof.

MIKEY

What's your job?

NORA

Actor.

She hands him her business card. He's unimpressed.

MIKEY

Wow. How long have you been driving for Uber?

NORA

Jokes on you I stopped doing that when I got this job... Which still hasn't paid.

She peers in the mirror and goes back to vocal warm ups.

NORA (CONT'D)
Mamamemah-ooooooooh god. What is she
doing here!?

A powerful woman in a suit walks to the bathroom. Nora pops
her head out of the pantry.

NORA (CONT'D)
Kennedy Kirkland!

LUCAS
Who?

NORA
Kennedy Kirkland? The head of
Douglas, Ivey and Kirkland agency!?

RAY
Boring. If the name Kennedy doesn't
have Onassis following it- nil
interest.

NORAS
Boring?!? Our performance is being
seen by real people in the
industry, not just drunk teachers
and stoned moms.

LUCAS
Some of these moms have drugs on
them?

NORA
She represents 36 of the top 50
celebrities playing Super Heroes!
I'm following her.

BRUCE
Sounds like you've been following
her.

NORA
On social media not real life!

KAYLA
Why is everyone yelling?! This is
like working for the Ellen Show!
I need to find some positivity.

Kayla goes into the bathroom and slams the door. She SCREAMS.

RAY
So much for positivity.

LUCAS
Now it really sounds like working
for the Ellen Show.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Everyone jams into the doorway. Tom the caterer is DEAD.

NORA
Oh my god! Is he...

LUCAS
Dead?

Lucas picks up a mop and pokes the caterer with the handle.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Hey, big boy. You a little dead
down there?

BRUCE
I don't think the mop is necessary.

RAY
I'd say it's necessary. I'm not
touching that thing.

NORA
That thing? He is- or was a person.
Check his pulse.

EVAN
He doesn't have a pulse.
(checks his own pulse)
Wait, where do you find your pulse?
Oh my god, I don't have a pulse!

BRUCE
What happened?

LUCAS
What happened? 60 years of Big Macs
is what happened. Dude had a heart
attack.

JEAN
I'm calling the cops.

NORA
No! If the cops come this show is
canceled.

KAYLA
No? Seriously?!?

NORA
If the show is cancelled, we break
our contract and Mr. Schiffer
doesn't pay.
(beat)
And Kennedy won't see me perform.

RAY
Screw Kennedy. I'm trying to get on
my coin. Like John F. Kennedy!

LUKA
Yeah, I didn't do this for
memories. I drink every night to
forget these memories.

NORA
We can... call the cops after the
show is done. No big deal at all.

EVAN
Are you crazy? There's a dead guy
here.

NORA
Are you crazy? There's alive
industry out there!

RAY
We did nothing wrong, if anyone's
to blame it's the Hamburglar.

LUCAS
What would Tom want?

Lucas leans into Tom's body.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
What's that? You're fine laying on
the floor for three hours like Evan
does, then we can do the show, call
the cops and get paid?
(beat)
I don't know, he brings up a fair
point.

BRUCE
He's right. Lucas, not the...
talking body. No one in the
audience can know about this until
after the show.

NORA
(innocently)
Know what?

RAY
I don't know nothin'.

EVAN
This seems like a bad idea.
But... I'm in.

BRUCE
So, Jean... put down the phone.

Jean hesitates and looks at all of them, clutching her cell.

JEAN
This is wrong, is money really
worth it?

LUCAS
Money is the only reason I talk to
any of you!

Bruce and Ray lightly walk over to Jean.

BRUCE
Jean, some of us will be in a tight
spot without that money.

RAY
We'll call the cops at 10pm. You
can trust us, we're the Three
Musketeers.

Ray gently pries the phone from her tight grasp.

RAY (CONT'D)
There, we all agree.

KAYLA
HAVE YOU GONE INSANE! A MAN IS DEAD
AND YOU WANT TO DO A DINNER SHOW!?

NORA
Kayla, we all need this money.

KAYLA
I don't need \$50k, I have trust
fund!

NORA
You have a trust fund?

EVAN

I can live for two years off \$50k.

Kayla reaches for her phone.

NORA

Stop!

Nora grabs the phone and struggle to take it. The phone flies across the room and crashes into the wall. It doesn't break.

After a pause, both Nora and Kayla rush for the phone but are beat to it by Ray. CRUNCH, he stomps on it with his boot.

RAY

Oh, no. Did I just step on your mobile? My bad.

NORA

Good thing your trust fund can buy you a new one.

Kayla shoves past the group and runs to the stage.

KAYLA

HELP!

INT. DINNER HALL - CONTINUOUS

Kayla sprints to the audience.

KAYLA

Someone is dead!

Gabe, who was playing a golf game on his phone, jerks awake. Lucas, Evan and Ray run out.

KAYLA (CONT'D)

Call the police!!!

Sofia looks up and Evan turns his back to her.

EVAN

Yes, someone is dead... It's a murder! And it must be solved.

NORA

Welcome to the Murder Mystery Show.

The audience claps.

KAYLA

No, it's real! I found a dead-

Ray covers Kayla's mouth, she struggles hard.

LUCAS
Miss Hanson is so overwhelmed she's
fainting.

KAYLA
Get off me! I'm fine.

LUCAS
She's so weak, I can barely hear
her words.

KAYLA
I said, I'm FINE.

RAY
Poor thing is hysterical. We'll
take her back to- calm the hell
down. The host will start the show.

Lucas throws a screaming and kicking Kayla over his shoulder.

GABE
Umm... Happy Halloween!
(beat)
Table 7,8,9 get your dinner at the
buffet quick.

Gabe covers the mic as Ray and Lucas hurry backstage.

GABE (CONT'D)
What the hell is going on?!?!

NORA
I don't know, just a dead body
ruining the show!

RAY
Stall!

Gabe looks terrified and turns to the audience.

GABE
How about that food? Let's bring
the caterer out to take a bow.

Evan frantically waves "no". He looks to Sofia, she's gone.

EVAN
Good.

He turns around and she's right there. He knocks Sofia's tray
of drinks all over her clothes.

EVAN (CONT'D)
God! I'm sorry.

SOFIA
What the hell! Watch where you're-
Evan?

EVAN
Sofia!

SOFIA
Woah- Hi. What are you... Wait. Are
you IN this show?

EVAN
Yeah, I do theater now. Fell into
it six months ago, I have a whole
body... of work.

SOFIA
Law school didn't play out?

EVAN
Played out too well. I ended up not
going because I wanted more of a
challenge.

SOFIA
Well that's just- I mean, I can't
believe you... I hope you kill it.

EVAN
Probably won't be any killing
tonight but thanks. I need to go
backstage. We all do a relaxing
moment of silence before starting
the show.

INT. KITCHEN - SAME

Kayla screams as Luka and Ray drag her backstage. Nora takes
Kayla's broken phone and hands it to Lucas.

KAYLA
LET GO OF ME.

Ray plops Kayla on the floor. She turns enraged to the group.

JEAN
Relax.

KAYLA
Relax!?!? THERE'S. A. DEAD. BODY.

NORA
We. Know.

RAY
We're all aware.

EVAN
We need to keep her quiet and think
this through.

BRUCE
How? Where can we put her that no
one will hear?

Nora turns to the pantry.

INT. PANTRY - MOMENTS LATER

Kayla is pulled in.

RAY
In a few hours, this will all seem
funny. Maybe a few years after
therapy, we'll see.

KAYLA
I HATE YOU!

NORA
Do your meditation, you'll be fine.

KAYLA
LUCAS, HOW CAN YOU BETRAY M-

Lucas slams the metal door and her screaming can barely be heard. He jams a rolling pin between the handle to lock it.

JEAN
This is a mess but we're behind. We
have to start.

INT. DINNER HALL - MOMENTS LATER

Gabe is grasping at straws to entertain everyone.

GABE
1082 was the number I was thinking
of so table four is the closest
with their guess of 16.

The cast bursts out and sit amongst the audience. Nora takes Bruce's seat at Kennedy's table.

BRUCE
Hey!

NORA

I'm sorry, sir but this is my seat.
(to Kennedy)
Hey! Lets make introductions. I'll
start, I'm Nora.

KENNEDY

Kennedy.

KENNEDY'S FRIEND

I'm Saman-

NORA

Stop talking the show is starting.

The lights dim. Gabe steps into a spotlight.

GABE

Tonight we bring you a tale of
death and betrayal. One of the
people you meet will be a murderer.
Trust no one, or you too will be
slain. We are all suspects and
potential victims in our Murder
Mystery Show!

Evan notices Sofia watching the show.

EVAN

(whispers)
Kayla starts the show.

LUCAS

What?

EVAN

(whispers louder)
Kayla starts the show. She has the
first line before I die. I can't go
out.

LUCAS

Your role doesn't matter and she's
not here so go out and die already.

Evan gets up and preps to be stabbed by Ray dressed as the
hooded figure.

Evan sees Sofia watching. He abruptly stops and addresses the
audience.

EVAN

Wait! Where's my sister?

BRUCE

Oh... you mean the woman you came with? The one who ran out on stage earlier?

Evan beams at Bruce thinking he is giving him an opportunity to shine and dives into his first full performance.

EVAN

Yes! That's right, fine sir. You were in the buffet line and saw us.

BRUCE

Yes! That's right. She's fine... sir. Weren't you about to open that ominous door or something?

Evan contemplates whether to give up or take his moment.

EVAN

We heard her scream earlier. Do you think my sister was murdered?

LUCAS

Um, no, she's still alive. I feel like if anyone was about to get murdered... it would be you. And I really mean that.

EVAN

I have so many memories of my older sister! I remember our tire swing and her being born. WHY?

(beat)

Oh, Candy Corn.

Evan eats off a table. Gabe hustles to Jean.

GABE

What's going on?

JEAN

Evan threw us off script since Kayla isn't here.

Evan makes melodramatic sobs and rolls on a table of teachers dressed as Wizard of Oz characters. Bruce drags him off.

BRUCE

(whispers)

Don't make me restrain you.

GABE

Where's Kayla?

JEAN
Locked in the pantry.

GABE
What?!?

JEAN
Kayla tried to cancel the show.

GABE
WHY?!?

JEAN
You missed a lot and we made some
major decisions without you. Can
you go check on her? I have to pry
Evan off that table.
(beat)
Whatever you do, don't let her out.

Gabe runs to the back. Bruce comes up to Jean as Sofia pours wine. Ray walks over, taking off his hooded figure costume.

BRUCE
I should have bought that taser at
Walmart. I can stun him with this
candle?

Jean looks down at her clipboard, distressed.

JEAN
It's too late. Get the audience
drunk so everyone has fun and the
show can continue.

RAY
We got this.

Ray grabs wine and toasts it before Sofia can finish pouring.

SOFIA
Hey!

RAY
Hey! I am Professor Bridges, Miss
Hanson was my student- even though
we're the same age. Raise a glass
to her.

Everyone drinks.

RAY (CONT'D)
And raise another glass to Mr.
Hanson who is going through a lot.
(MORE)

RAY (CONT'D)

(sotto)

And doing a lot.

EVAN

I'm so sad I might kill myself.

LUCAS

Please do.

BRUCE

My name is Detective Myers. I was hired by none other than Miss Hanson's secret lover.

LUCAS

Lies!

BRUCE

I'm talking about Miss Rose.

LUCAS

Oh, yeah, truths. I would know, I was Miss Hanson's close friend. But not too close.

NORA

And I was her secret lover! I hated her dead brother... who... isn't dead anymore?

Gabe staggers back and walks right through the performance and up to the mic. His face is ghostly.

GABE

With all these new, confusing, yet completely believable events, let's split into groups and talk about who could be the murderer.

(beat)

Meanwhile, I'd like to hear from you, you, you, you and you.

He points to the cast. Everyone follows except Nora.

Evan sees Sophia watching him and he smiles. She smiles back.

NORA

I can't leave, I have lots of secrets to share.

KENNEDY

Your boss wants you.

NORA

Gabe's not my boss, he's the narrator. That isn't even a real part.

LUCAS

I'm sure you're devastated for me to steal Miss Rose away but don't worry, knowing her- she always comes back.

Lucas gives a seductive goodbye and pulls Nora away. Kennedy's friends whispers something into Kennedy's ear and points towards Nora. Kennedy smiles and Nora glows.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Everyone walks in. Evan and Nora are ecstatic.

JEAN

What are you doing, Gabe? They need to be out there making this disaster somewhat entertaining.

GABE

Well, Kayla is-

JEAN

What now? We can't have anything happen. She needs to calm down.

Gabe casually opens the pantry door.

GABE

She's calm... and dead.

KAYLA IS DEAD.

Everyone gasps. Lucas is frozen in place.

Kayla, is covered in blood, her face contorted in fear.

EVAN

Oh, God.

Bruce goes to the caterer's body in the bathroom. There's blood under his apron from a massive knife wound.

NORA

What?

EVAN

Kayla and Tom were...

BRUCE
Murdered.

INT. DINNER HALL - LATER

Teachers dressed as Wizard of Oz characters surround Sofia and Mikey at the bar. They've been drinking all night.

CLAIRE (LION)
There's no place like NOT being
home.

JULIE (SCARECROW)
And not teaching 3rd grade!

They sloppily cheers as beer falls on the carpet.

MIKEY
I love how coordinated your
costumes are.

JULIE
I love how coordinated your face
is!

DOUG (TIN MAN)
We're the "Teachers of Oz".

CLAIRE
We made our students dress up like
Munchkins. They didn't learn
anything but it was hilarious.

JULIE
Cause teachers are taller than
kids!

Sofia hands her a drink and does her best to be polite.

SOFIA
Thanks for explaining. You're
really deep.

JULIE
No, I'm tall-

SOFIA
We're on the same page.

INT. KITCHEN - SAME

The cast is freaking out.

RAY
You need to explain this to me!

GABE
Explain what!?! Someone out there
is a murderer.

BRUCE
Or someone in here.

The severity of this hits the group and they turn silent with varied worried and scared expressions.

EVAN
But she was murdered here and we
were there- None of us there were
here.

NORA
Gabe was here!

GABE
ME?!?! You all locked her in a
pantry after finding a DEAD GUY.

RAY
AT THE TIME IT MADE SENSE.

NORA
What did we do? We got Kayla
killed!

RAY
I didn't get Kayla killed. I think
you got Kayla killed.

JEAN
I'm calling 9-1-1.

EVAN
We can't, we smashed her phone and
locked her up after finding a body.

JEAN
So?

EVAN
So, earlier we did nothing wrong by
not reporting Tom died, we just had
shitty ethics. Now, we are
responsible for Kayla getting
killed.

BRUCE

The police are going to make us the key suspects.

RAY

Of course we're the key suspects, one of us did it!

The audience can be heard in the background.

NORA

Or one of them.

RAY

Well, Nancy Drew, let's find out who killed Kayla so we don't go to jail.

BRUCE

Most murders are caused by someone they knew, who in this building knew the caterer?

NORA

That waiter was grabbing him.

RAY

The hot waiter! I remember cause I was picturing him grabbing me.

JEAN

But Kayla? Was anyone extra close to Kayla?

For the first time since discovering the body, Lucas snaps out of his paralysis.

LUCAS

None of us were extra close to Kayla, I'd say we were all equally distant.

GABE

Jean, you're old. I bet you loved *Murder, She Wrote*. What would Angela Lansbury do?

JEAN

I don't know *Murder, She Wrote*.

(beat)

Okay, I do. But I'm not that old! The murder weapon! Angela would find prints on it and prove our innocence.

GABE
Good job, Jean B. Fletcher. FIND
THE KNIFE!

They knock over cabinets. Evan grabs the fake knife.

EVAN
We're looking for something like
this but *real*- pass it around so
you know what you're looking for.

GABE
We've seen a real knife.

RAY
I can't go to jail! You know what
they'll do to someone like me?

NORA
Have sex with you?

RAY
No, they force inmates to do labor
like put out wildfires. First- I
don't do manual labor. Second, I
can't stop those California fires.
Nothing can stop them except for
reasonable climate change policies!

LUCAS
Um, hello? If anyone is having
unwanted sex in jail it's-
(ref self)
this guy. I'm trapped with these
traps!

Lucas dramatically flexes his arms in fear.

NORA
You are unbelievable.

LUCAS
I know. I'm screwed.

JEAN
Forget the knife, we have two hours
and 40 minutes left before Mr.
Schiffer's contracts expire. We
have to finish the show and find
out who the killer is at the same
time.

LUCAS
So we don't go to jail.

BRUCE

Get paid.

EVAN

And stop this murderer from
escaping.

The crowd is louder and more unruly.

BRUCE

Someone help me move Tom's body
into the pantry.

Bruce, Lucas and Ray struggle to move Tom's body.

LUCAS

Did he eat even more after he died?

EVAN

You guys continue the show, I'll
leave and question the waitstaff.

NORA

Great idea and I can deliver a
dramatic monologue about why you
left.

JEAN

I don't think we need-

SMASH TO:

INT. DINNER HALL - LATER

Nora delivers a lengthy speech. Evan puts the fake knife
down.

NORA

I will forever miss Mr. Hanson but
his tuberculosis symptoms have
become too severe. Coughing.
Sweating. Having to wear a diaper
as he sleeps.

BRUCE

I don't think that last one is a
symptom but thank you Nora for
updating everyone. Now let's go
over how we all know Miss Hanson.
Miss Rose was her lover. How did
you know her, Mr. Z?

LUCAS (MR. Z)
I didn't know her. We weren't
lovers if that's what you're
insinuating.

RAY
You didn't know her? You said you
were her close friend?

LUCAS
Not too close. I think the best
thing for me is to go with Mr.
Hanson to solve this other mystery-
about why he keeps pooping the be-

BRUCE
We don't need to talk about that
anymore. Goodbye!

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

Evan and Lucas creep up to Mikey who looks magnetic in his
tight uniform.

LUCAS
That psycho was yelling at the
caterer and I bet he slept with
Kayla.

EVAN
Of course he's the killer, villains
always wear black. Louis C.K. wore
black and look at him. Everyone
looks bad in black.

Sofia walks up, looking captivating in her black uniform.

EVAN (CONT'D)
Whoah. Except for Sofia. She
looks... really good.

LUCAS
I think the hot guy Sofia talks to
all day looks good.

EVAN
He's average.

LUCAS
An average model.

They arrive at the bar, Evan acts coyly.

EVAN

Hey! Any idea who the murderer is?

SOFIA

I wasn't watching, we're too busy feeding teachers alcohol.

EVAN

Same. Super busy. Didn't even know the plot had a murderer.

LUCAS

So you guys dated in high school?

EVAN

And college. I really went to college.

SOFIA

Evan left after that. He wanted to move onto bigger things. This is crazy. You look so much older, I barely recognize you.

LUCAS

Sad, right? He's aged terribly.

MIKEY

I'm Mikey. If you want an anti-aging cream, I use snail oil twice a day.

LUCAS

Your epidermis is incredible.

EVAN

Thanks but I got a bag of snails at home. Who woulda thought our careers would lead us to work together?

SOFIA

Career? Bartending isn't my career. I make a living doing photography. I'm doing this side job to one day open my own studio.

MIKEY

And I play AAA baseball. May get drafted this year-

EVAN

This is my side job too.

SOFIA
What's your main job?

LUCAS
Yeah Evan, how do you bring in all
that real money you have?

EVAN
Stocks. I day trade. Night trade.
Weekend trade.

LUCAS
Why don't you make a trade for us
now? I always wondered how that
works.

EVAN
Can't. Market's closed. It's the
weekend.

Sofia, not paying attention, reaches for a heavy box. Mikey
swoops in and lifts it for her, his muscles look phenomenal.

MIKEY
Let me help.

SOFIA
Careful, it's heavy.

MIKEY
I got it.

They smile at each other and Mikey leaves.

EVAN
Wanna take a break and catch up?

SOFIA
Sorry, I'm busy.

LUCAS
Hey, not to ruin this awkwardness.
But where did that knife go?

He points to a rack that is missing the largest knife.

SOFIA
I didn't notice it was gone.

EVAN
Me either.

LUCAS
Well, Evan, did you notice that?

Next to sunglasses behind the bar is Kayla's GOLD BRACELET.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Who's stuff is over there?

SOFIA
Mikey's.

LUCAS
He sports some great fashion, huh?
We're leaving.

Lucas yanks Evan away with urgency.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
That's Kayla's bracelet.

EVAN
How do you know?

LUCAS
What do you mean? We were close.
But not too close.

EVAN
I knew Mikey was a liar. I bet that
box wasn't even heavy. Let's ask
Sofia-

LUCAS
Quit talking about Sofia. I get
you're trying to look good in front
of someone who was way out of your
league years ago-

EVAN
She's out of my league now too.

LUCAS
But this murder is serious.
Stop thinking of yourself and be
helpful for once.

Lucas walks away. Evan sadly peers back at Sofia. Nora
hurries past Evan and perches at the bar.

EVAN
You leaving the performance too?

NORA
I'm not going to be doing great
then leave and ruin the show I'm
on. I'm not Mischa Barton.

(MORE)

NORA (CONT'D)
(whispers)
I'm doing recon between my scenes.

Evan dejectedly follows Lucas. Nora pretends to have a drink while spying on Kennedy. Sofia saunters over.

SOFIA
What can I get you, my great talent?

NORA
Virgin Long Island. Alcohol's not poisoning me on closing night.

Without looking away from Kennedy, Nora snatches the drink while Sofia is still pouring.

SOFIA
Can we stop grabbing glasses as I'm pouring?

NORA
Shh.

Kennedy talks to her family.

SAMANTHA
You enjoying what Scranton can offer?

KENNEDY
I'm enjoying what this open bar can offer.

SAMANTHA
At least there's one stand out performer.

NORA
I'm a stand out performer! Also you dated, Evan? What were you thinking?

SOFIA
Thanks. That'll be \$11.99.

NORA
I thought tonight was an open bar?

SOFIA
It is, if you bought a ticket. You didn't buy a ticket? What were you thinking?

NORA

Isn't there a Murder Mystery Troupe discount?

SOFIA

Sure. Let me type the "Stand Out Performer Mystery Troupe Talent" code into the register. Hmm... Okay, here's your new bill.

(beat)

\$11.99.

Nora shoots daggers at Sofia.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

So, will that be card or your magic celebrity coins?

NORA

Card.

SOFIA

We're cash only.

Nora pays and gets up. Samantha gestures towards Lucas.

SAMANTHA

That performer's such a killer.

Nora freezes and realizes Lucas has been the one they've been watching all night. She casts a deadly glare at Lucas.

INT. DINNER HALL - 7:45PM

Bruce and Ray perform. The audience loves them, especially the teachers dressed as characters from Wizard of Oz.

BRUCE

We found a clue! The note was forged by none other than Professor Bridges. Why?

RAY

I was with him the night he died.

JULIE (SCARECROW)

WHOOOO suspense!

Julie pours a flask of whiskey into her empty wine glass. Claire grabs Bruce's thighs.

CLAIRE (LION)

You can be with me the night I die.

BRUCE
What does that mean?

CLAIRE
It means you can kill this.

She drunkenly points to her crotch.

JULIE
Cowardly Lion isn't that cowardly!

Nora defeatedly slumps next to Lucas in the back of the room.
Kayla's broken phone rings in Lucas's pocket.

LUCAS
This still works? What is this
phone, the Terminator?!

He looks at the caller ID: **Ian** :)

Although the bottom of the screen is smashed we can still see
the top of the picture which is a very muscular hispanic man
holding Kayla. Texts fly in. Nora grabs the phone.

NORA
Shit. It's her boyfriend.

LUCAS
Why would Kayla have a boyfriend?
Did she tell you this?

NORA	LUCAS (CONT'D)
Yes.	She didn't tell me.

NORA
You seem very concerned about her
boyfriend.

LUCAS
I'm not concerned about her
boyfriend. I'm concerned someone
killed Kayla and the more I think
about it the more I think it was
obviously her boyfriend.

NORA
(reading phone)
The boyfriend who just texted he's
on his way?

LUCAS
Yes, him.
(beat)
Wait, what?!?

NORA
He's almost here.

LUCAS
WHAT?

Lucas yanks the phone back from Nora.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
He's driving to the show? He can't
be. Boyfriend?!? He's going to be
pissed when he finds out.

NORA
That Kayla's dead?

LUCAS
Yeah, that too!

Nora studies him.

NORA
Lucas, clearly something was going
on with you and Kayla-

LUKE
Okay, fine! We were fooling around!

NORA
-And it's none of my business.

LUCAS
Exactly! Quit accusing me of lies.

NORA
But I will help you hide this if
you make my performance look better
than yours in front of Kennedy.

LUCAS
You want me to bomb so you look
better?

NORA
Yes.

LUCAS
Do I still get paid?

NORA
Yes.

LUCAS

Then yes! I'll hype you up like I'm
Flavor Flav.

NORA

Good, start now. The show needs me.

Nora and Lucas strut towards the stage.

KENNEDY'S FRIEND

The sexy Mr. Z returns!

LUCAS

Yup. I'm back.
(to Nora)
But not too back.

NORA

We need all of your help. Everyone
look under your chair for a clue.
(to Kennedy)
Especially this table.

The audience searches under their chairs.

JULIE (SCARECROW)

I found a bottle of poison!

BRUCE

I knew it. There must be-

KENNEDY

I found a headshot... of Nora,
who's playing Miss Rose.

NORA

That's a strong clue for a strong
leading lady. Or character actor, I
can do it all.

LUCAS

Multi talented. She's a modern day
Micheal Jackson.

NORA

I don't think that comparison holds
the same respect it used to.

LUCAS

Too "musicy". She's a modern day
Woody Allen.

NORA

You done?

LUCAS
Yeah, boyyyyyyy!

BRUCE
Okay. Can we please get back to the
important clue.

CLAIRE
I found a bloody knife.

From under her chair she pulls the knife that killed Kayla
and Tom. The cast struggles to remain calm.

LUCAS
That looks... real.

Claire excitedly puts the knife in Bruce's hands.

BRUCE
Of course it's real, it's the knife
that killed the caterer.
(realizing)
I mean killed Kayla! I mean killed
Miss Hanson!!! Miss Hanson has been
slain. Kayla, the actor playing
Miss Hanson, is completely alive.
Let's give Kayla a round of
applause cause she can definitely
hear you.

The audience cheers.

CLAIRE (LION)
Bring her out for this. It's
painful to keep clapping cause of
our carpal tunnel.

BRUCE
Oh, uh. You'll see her once more!

NORA
(whispers)
You're making it worse.

BRUCE
For the grand finale!
(to Nora)
Shit, I am.

Ray takes the knife from Bruce.

RAY
I'm going to deliver this backstage
to my... evidence room.

JULIE (SCARECROW)
Why does a college professor have
an evidence room?

BRUCE
Good point, Scarecrow. You clearly
got your brain. I will take it to
my evidence room.

LUCAS
We'll all take it to our evidence
rooms.

Bruce takes the knife and they all turn away.

KENNEDY
What about the poison?

RAY
Yes... the most important evidence.

KENNEDY
(ref headshot)
Do you need this back?

NORA
Keep it, I can mail you more
evidence after the show.

They leave. Gabe walks to the mic.

GABE
Spooky stuff.

Silence.

GABE (CONT'D)
For the next 15 minutes alcohol
is... still free and it's at the
bar!

Sofia is overworked and exasperated. The teachers plow over.

DOUG (TIN MAN)
Alright! Tin Man needs some oil.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Everyone walks in. Evan has taped drawings of the cast on the
wall and connected them with shoe laces.

EVAN
I helped!

JEAN

How?

EVAN

I sketched all the key suspects.
Even myself.

The drawing of Evan has extra large muscles.

EVAN (CONT'D)

And I connected the strings between
us. Well, less string and more
shoelaces from the lost and found.

LUCAS

You idiot, this is definitely
evidence that we knew about the
murder- Wait, does my drawing have
a penis for nose?

The picture of Lucas indeed does have a penis for a nose.

EVAN

I was mad at you. Plus it's hard to
draw noses.

LUCAS

Rude.

RAY

You do have the most penis-y nose
out of all of us.

NORA

You're also a huge dick.

LUCAS

Am a huge dick or have a huge di-

EVAN

Let's go over what we know: The
main suspects are Lucas, Nora, Ray,
Jean, Bruce, Gabe, Mikey, and me.

NORA

You forgot Sofia.

LUCAS

Didn't forget, he's been thinking
of her all night.

EVAN

I know her and she wouldn't do
this.

JEAN
Put her on the board.

NORA
Use the picture of Lucas's nose
since Evan is only thinking with
his penis.

EVAN
SO for the past 6 months Nora hated
Kayla. Gabe found Kayla's body but
also was the only one alone with
her while we were all on stage.
Lucas was the closest to Kayla.

LUCAS
Who's Kayla again? Oh yeah, that
one girl. Not too close.

NORA
And Evan desperately needs money,
has no skills and in a dire
scenario may do anything for 50k.

EVAN
But I think the killer is Mikey. He
had Kayla's bracelet, was missing a
knife and murders snails and rubs
them on his face.

BRUCE
Knife's not missing anymore.

Bruce hands Evan the knife.

EVAN
Oh, this is a real knife.
(realizing)
Ohhhh, this is the real knife. I
don't want my fingerprints on the
real knife!

Evan jams it in Lucas's hand.

LUCAS
You think I want it?!?

Lucas throws it to Jean who awkwardly catches it.

NORA
Stop throwing knives.

JEANS
Nora's right. But you take it.

Jean hands it to Bruce. He tosses it in the sink.

LUCAS

Why would you touch it in the first place, Bruce?

BRUCE

I'm not a real detective. I'm not even a real actor, I'm a retired accountant!

JEAN

Remain calm, there's a murderer out there. Let's stay in pairs to be safe and make sure one of us isn't the killer: Nora and Lucas, Bruce and Ray and that means me and...

EVAN

Sofia?

JEAN

No. You.

EVAN

That makes more sense.

JEAN

We can't have audience members walking around. Keep everyone seated so they never find Kayla.

IAN (26) a muscular man in a military uniform strides in.

IAN

Where's Kayla? The waitstaff said she'd be here.

Everyone freezes.

LUCAS

It's Kayla's boyfriend. Who is a soldier.

IAN

Oh, this isn't real. It's a World War II uniform. I'm fighting fascists for Halloween.

Everyone sighs.

LUCAS

Thank God, I thought you were actually a Marine.

IAN

I am a Marine. Just not fighting fascists... well sometimes.

LUCAS

Shit.

(beat)

Shit, that's heroic of you.

IAN

You okay?

LUCAS

Yeah. I love America: Apple pie, Toby Keith, monogamy...

(to Ray)

What else is American?

RAY

Childhood obesity, systemic racism, a disappearing middle class.

NORA

Anyway, let's get you to the dinning hall so you can see your girlfriend's show.

IAN

She's my fiancé.

LUCAS

Oh, come on!

(beat)

Come on this way to your seat.

INT. DINNER HALL - CONTINUOUS

Gabe talks to the audience.

GABE

Let's meet someone who traveled a far distance for the show. Anyone here?

Half the room claps and raises their hands.

GABE (CONT'D)

Oh great, where you from?

CLAIRE

Suburbs of Scranton.

GABE
That's a little close to say you
traveled. What about you?

JULIE
Downtown Scranton.

GABE
Even closer. Is anyone not from
Scranton?

Doug dressed as Tin Man raises his hand.

GABE (CONT'D)
Great! Where are you from?

DOUG
Did you say not from Scranton?

GABE
Yes.

DOUG
Oh, Scranton.

The rest of the cast walks back. Nora whispers to Lucas.

NORA
You didn't know you were having an
affair with someone engaged to a
Marine?

LUCAS
She told me she was kind of seeing
someone who was gone on a two year
tour.

NORA
What did you think that meant?!?

LUCAS
I thought he was doing a tour of
Wicked or some shit. I don't know,
we weren't that close!

Gabe notices everyone come in.

GABE
Thank God. The show continues!

BRUCE
Back to the ongoing mystery, folks.
There is one witness we haven't
questioned. Him!

Bruce points to Mikey and the room falls silent.

MIKEY

I'm not part of the show.

RAY

We are all part of this show, you
all-American-smoke-show.

Ray pulls a chair out for him.

RAY (CONT'D)

Take a seat.

MIKEY

I'm holding drinks.

RAY

Take a stand.

BRUCE

Mr. Waiter-

MIKEY

Mikey.

BRUCE

Mr. Mikey the Waiter. Where were
you when the show started?

MIKEY

Putting out the food.

BRUCE

On whose orders were you "putting
out the food"?

MIKEY

Um, the caterer's?

LUCAS

And you hated being pushed around
by the pushy caterer? Hated him and
started beef like you were Pusha-T?

BRUCE

Exactly! You screamed at him today.

MIKEY

Cause he took things from the bar.
Why are we talking about the
caterer? Isn't the mystery about
that Miss Hanson lady?

BRUCE

An interrogation takes round about ways to get somewhere.

Claire rubs Bruce's leg.

CLAIRE

Can I be interrogated next? I have nasty secrets I'd like to reveal.

(whispers)

You can search me backstage.

BRUCE

I'm busy searching for clues with-

Claire jumps up and Bruce grabs her. She spins around and sits on his lap.

CLAIRE

Whoo, the show is starting!

JULLIE

Follow the yellow dick road!

Jean angrily stands by Evan and Gabe.

JEAN

This isn't going to end well.

GABE

I could have the bus ready for a quick exit?

JEAN

Absolutely not- Maybe necessary.

GABE

I'll get the keys from your bag.

Gabe leaves. Evan sees Sofia carry a box. He goes to her.

EVAN

I'll be back.

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

Sofia struggles to lift a massive box.

EVAN

Need help?

SOFIA

I need Mikey.

EVAN

No you don't, you have me.

He grabs the other side of the box.

SOFIA

That's not very comforting coming from you.

Evan winces from the blow.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

We gotta put it in the pantry.

EVAN

(panics)

Pantry? Back where we keep everything backstage? Why not put it behind the bar?

SOFIA

That's where it was. We need to take it to the pantry.

EVAN

Pantry. Isn't that such a weird name for a room? Pan-tree. What do they keep in there pans or trees?

SOFIA

We keep alcohol.

Sofia stops what she is doing and turns on Evan.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Seriously, what is with you? You're acting so different. Is this the "better person you know you could be" from your note?

EVAN

Um...

SOFIA

Remember? The note you left when you broke up and ghosted me?

Sofia grabs the box herself and carries it. Evan follows.

INT. DINNER HALL - SAME

Jean notices she is alone.

JEAN
Wait, where did he go? I need a
"Find My Freakin' Evan App".

She walks towards the kitchen then bumps into a LARGE PERSON
in a spooky black spirit costume.

JEAN (CONT'D)
Pardon me. Would you mind going
back to your seat?

He doesn't move.

JEAN (CONT'D)
You'll miss clues.

Nothing.

JEAN (CONT'D)
Okay, please hurry. Restrooms to
your left, your seat to your right.

Jean leaves, he follows. Jean jogs away, he follows faster.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Jean hustles in then abruptly turns to face him.

JEAN
Excuse me, you can't be back here.

He reaches into the sink and picks up the bloody knife.

JEAN (CONT'D)
You have got to be kidding me.

The killer lunges at Jean with the knife, she blocks it with
her clipboard. He takes more stabs, Jean falls and opens the
pantry door trying to catch herself.

JEAN (CONT'D)
Help! Help me, please!

Jean runs into a gross employee bathroom. She slams the door
and locks it. The killer kicks loudly at the door.

JEAN (CONT'D)
I should have just retired. I
should have just retired!

The killer kicks through the door, lodging his foot through
the hole. Jean rams open the door, throwing the killer aside.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jean sprints past the stage. Evan follows Sofia. Neither of them can see what's happening over the large box.

JEAN
Evan, help me!

EVAN
Hold on, I'm helping Sofia.

The killer pursues Jean. She dashes into a room and hides.

INT. NEGLECTED ROOM - CONTINUOUS

It's a dark and decrepit living room used for storage. The door creaks open. Jean breathes heavily. There is a loud thud and in the shadows Jean sees someone laying on the ground.

JEAN
AHHHH!

INT. KITCHEN - SAME

Evan and Sofia walk in.

EVAN
Sofia, wait! Talk to me.

SOFIA
What, Evan? Did you want to add a
P.S. to your note?

Sofia puts down the box and Evan notices the pantry door is open. He freaks out.

EVAN
No, I just really need you to hear
me out. Right here and now.

SOFIA
I can't believe you have the nerve
to talk to me all night as if
everything's like you left it.

EVAN
It's not that, Sof, I regret-

SOFIA
Don't call me Sof, dude. You don't
know me like that anymore.

EVAN

I know I don't know you, you used to be happy and nice- now you're closed off. What happened?

SOFIA

You're what happened, Evan. The person I trusted abandoned me- Wait. Stop. What's that?

Evan paralyzes in fear of Sofia discovering Kayla. Sofia then walks to the bathroom where the killer broke the door.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Who used our bathroom? Keith Moon?

She touches the door and a chunk of wood crumbles off.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

What asshole did this?

EVAN

Yeah, asshole!

Evan, leaning against the pantry door, slams it closed like he's frustrated.

SOFIA

I need to fix this. Alone.

Sofia leaves.

EVAN

(sotto)

I'm the asshole.

INT. DINNER HALL - CONTINUOUS

Ray and Nora perform a overdramatic scene.

RAY

You told us the pig was slain for food but it was actually slain for a Celtic ritual you were performing on Halloween! I know, I watched that pig die!

Everyone gasps loudly.

Lucas sits uncomfortably close to Ian. Ian pulls out his phone and texts Kayla: **Where you at? I came to see you :)**

Kayla's phone plays a sound in Lucas pocket. Lucas freezes.

LUCAS
...Should have turned off my phone.

He reaches into his pocket and blindly tries to silence it.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
It's here somewhere.

Ian calls and Lucas's pocket rings. Ian turns hostile.

IAN
Why do you have Kayla's phone?

LUCAS
Uh... Watch the show. Quit texting
and being rude.

IAN
Why do you have Kayla's phone?

LUCAS
Kayla who?

IAN
Where's Kayla?!?

The whole room is now looking at their side conversation.

SAMANTHA
Oooh, escalating drama.

KENNEDY
Told you the marine was a plant. He
arrived late and his anger is
pushed.

IAN
I'M FINDING KAYLA!

KENNEDY
See?

Ian plows backstage. Gabe and Lucas jump out of their chairs.

LUCAS
Don't go back there.

KENNEDY
Are we supposed to follow?

GABE
No, the show will come to you...
but I'm going with them. Someone
stay with-

NORA

I'll stay! Who wants to hear a song
I wrote? Technically, it's two
songs but they sound better
performed back to back.

JULIE

Is one of the songs "Formation"?
Cause you can play Bee b-to-b.

LUCAS

Miss Rose is coming with me.

NORA

I stay!

JULIE

I slay!

LUCAS

Gabe will *slay!*

Gabe stops running backstage.

GABE

Fine. Glad I'm never involved in
group decisions that greatly effect
my life.

(long sigh)

So who's got a birthday!

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Everyone rushes in.

IAN

Kayla? Kayla?

RAY

She must have gone home, that's
strange but also very common and
not alarming.

IAN

Kayla?

Ian rips open doors. He walks towards the closed pantry.

LUCAS

It wasn't us who did it!

He opens it... the bodies aren't there.

IAN

Did what?

Lucas takes this in.

LUCAS

Restocked this pantry. They got
Cheetos in here? Those are hard to
find this time of year.

Evan walks in, shocked to see everyone.

EVAN

Hey, it's the World War II soldier.
If you're looking for Nazis I'd
check Argentina. Or
Charlottesville.

Sofia walks in with tape and a piece of cardboard to cover
the bathroom door hole. Everyone stares at her.

SOFIA

What?

IAN

Where's Kayla!??

NORA

Bad show to pick for a surprise. It
was Kayla's turn to be murdered.
She was done after the first five
minutes of the show.

RAY

After her performance she went to
buy a new phone cause someone
stepped on it and shattered it.

(beat)

Not cause they were overweight- it
was a cheap phone.

LUCAS

Kayla gave me her old phone because
I don't have any money.

Lucas holds out Kayla's phone, it's barely held together.

IAN

Oh, okay. When will she be back?

RAY

Not sure but I remember her saying
if you show up you should relax,
watch the show, take off your shirt
and we can all enjoy.

IAN

Take off my shirt?

RAY

It was her final wishes.

BRUCE

Not final! You'll see her once
more!

NORA

(whispers)

Please don't do this again-

BRUCE

For the grand finale!
(realizing)
Shit.

LUCAS

Well, I'm glad there's no more
questions about where Kayla is or
who did it.

SOFIA

I have a question: don't you have a
show to do?

EVERYONE

Our show! / Totally forgot. / Is
that still happening?

Everyone walks out. Sofia fixes the door as Evan comes up.

EVAN

I put the box in the pantry for
you. Need help with anything else?

SOFIA

I'm fine, go perform. They can't do
it without you.

EVAN

Yeah, they think that too.

SOFIA

Hey, Evan... Thanks for helping me.

Sofia smiles and Evan walks out.

INT. DINNER HALL - SAME

Gabe is struggling to entertain a very rowdy audience.

JULIE
Do a monologue!

GABE
I'm not a performer, I'm the host.

DOUG
Do a host-o-lounge! What can you do?

Gabe glances around, afraid he's losing their attention.

He unscrews the mic stand and flips it upside down to resemble a golf club.

GABE
Wanna learn how to do a single
plane golf swing?

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The cast walks down the hallway, in the background Gabe teaches Samantha to swing. Nora ushers Ian away.

NORA
Take a seat, we'll be in shortly.

Ian joins the audience.

RAY
Hey, quick question. Where are the
bodies and why are they walking
around?!?

EVAN
Sofia was going to the pantry so I
moved them.

BRUCE
Where?

EVAN
Storage closet. Don't worry, no one
will ever find-

Claire walks to the storage closet and opens it. In it is toilet paper, cooking supplies and BOTH DEAD BODIES.

CLAIRE
This isn't the bathroom.

BRUCE
Nope! That's the dressing room
where Kayla and the caterer are
sleeping.

CLARIE
He's sleeping with his eyes open.

NORA
It's part of the show!

BRUCE
And over here is the most exciting
part. It's the real reason any one
watches shows. It's... it's...

RAY
Male Nudity!

Ray awkwardly attempts to rip the shirts off Evan and Lucas.

EVAN	LUCAS
Owe. It's on my ear.	You're just stroking my abs.

RAY
I thought I could do this in one
motion.

LUCAS
You need to unbutton it.

RAY
You need to stop wearing shirts
that are too small.

He get's their shirts off and turns smugly to Claire. Evan is
oddly fit for being so overlooked all the time.

RAY (CONT'D)
Damn, apparently Evan has nudity
you would want to see, who knew?

NORA
What do you think?

She looks at them.

CLAIRE
Good... Great...
(to Bruce)
You.

RAY
You heard the lady, Bruce. Show us
some skin.

Bruce takes off his shirt and Claire rubs him.

CLAIRE
I love this show.

BRUCE
Let's get you back to your seat.

Bruce ushers Claire away. He comes back.

EVAN
Alright, we're all okay.

A disheveled figure appears from a door behind Evan. Out
steps a sweating, exasperated and wrathful Jean.

JEAN
You.

EVAN
Hey, Jean... here for some male
nudity?

JEAN
You left me. The killer cornered me
and I almost got stabbed!

BRUCE
You saw the killer?

RAY
Was he tall? Was he built? Was he
hot?

JEAN
He's tall and wearing a creepy
spirit costume.

Jean towers over an uncomfortable, shirtless Evan.

JEAN (CONT'D)
We had one rule. Stay together. But
you can't stop thinking about your
ex and how you fucked up your life
after leaving her.

LUCAS
Burn.

EVAN

I'm sorr-

JEAN

Go home, we don't need you. You're so stupid you're clearly not the killer.

EVAN

I know I'm not the killer because the killer is Mikey.

JEAN

Guess what Sherlock, it's not Mikey. Mikey is dead.

Jean flings the door open revealing a DEAD MIKEY.

EVERYONE

Shit! / No way. / Why didn't you lead with that?

Doug walks past them. Everyone stops and is petrified.

DOUG

This show's great. The host is hilarious.

Doug goes back to his seat.

NORA

This is a disaster- Wait, Gabe is doing well?

JEAN

Did he not notice the bodies?

NORA

Oh god, we're screwed. And really, Gabe?

JEAN

We have to call the cops.

EVAN

No.

Evan looks away from Mikey for the first time.

EVAN (CONT'D)

We call the cops we go to jail. All the evidence points to us.

(MORE)

EVAN (CONT'D)

We moved the bodies, our fingerprints are on the knife and Lucas seems like a guy who already has a warrant out for his arrest.

LUCAS

They dropped all charges.

EVAN

We are the obvious suspects. No local cops or jury will believe we didn't do it. We need to find who the murderer is before 10pm or everyone leaves and we get blamed.

(beat)

And Jean. I'm sorry. I let my guard down, it won't happen again. I'm going to stop this murder and keep everyone safe.

BRUCE

If it wasn't Mikey it's either Sofia... or one of us.

They stare down each other.

INT. DINNER HALL - MOMENTS LATER

Gabe has the mic stand and is teaching Samantha how to putt.

GABE

And swing through. YOU GOT IT!

Everyone cheers. Julie takes off her scarecrow jacket and puts it on Gabe like a Masters Jacket. Gabe gets emotional.

The cast comes back, all of them spooked.

BRUCE

The show continues.

SAMANTHA

Where is our waiter? I ordered my drink 30 minutes ago.

EVAN

Professor Bridges and I can get your drinks.

RAY

Nu-uh, I'm not getting paid for that.

EVAN

You're getting paid to keep this show alive, and if someone *wasn't* alive it would be hard to get drinks out.

Ray considers it.

RAY

Hello, I'm Professor Bridges-Professor slash waiter. What can I get you and how do I make it?

Ian gets up from his seat. Nora and Lucas run to him.

LUCAS

Where are you going and can you not go there?

IAN

I'm going to my car to get a protein bar.

NORA

Stay, we don't want people missing the next clue.

IAN

I already missed half the show.

NORA

We can do a recap!

LUCAS

My character is like if Indiana Jones had sex with James Bond, then that baby had sex with Tom Hardy, then I'd be their baby but I'm not a baby I'm a grown man who has never had sex with anyone you know.

NORA (CONT'D)

My secret lover is Miss Hanson and she's missing- not real life missing- the character is missing so I have to reveal our love to everyone in a very dramatic and well acted way.

IAN

Kayla can explain it, I'm going outside.

LUCAS

We can get you food from the buffet.

IAN

All the trays are empty, the caterer hasn't refilled anything.

NORA

We'll get you some nuts. Barkeep!

Nora snaps towards Sofia who responds with a middle finger.

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

Evan reads labels on alcohol bottles, trying to figure out what they are. He awkwardly over pours shots. Sofia walks up.

SOFIA

What are you doing?

EVAN

Mikey's job. He's unavailable.

Ray walks up to the buffet holding a tray of desserts.

RAY

New tray coming in hot.

SOFIA

The caterer isn't here either?

RAY

He's taking a break with Mikey. I was just hanging with them.

SOFIA

I didn't know you guys were close.

RAY

No too close.

Jean walks up and Sofia leaves.

JEAN

Thanks for filling in, Ray.

RAY

Evan's helping. He killed a rat but then we found out it was already dead.

JEAN

Evan not being in the show is the most help he's done.

She leaves. Evan spots Kayla's bracelet with Mikey's stuff.

EVAN

I'll find the killer, Jean.

JEAN
I'll be with Bruce.

EVAN
(sotto)
I'll find him.

He pockets the bracelet. Ray struts back with another tray.

RAY
We got cakes and pies but they are
still frozen cause I don't know how
to work the oven. Deal with it.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Evan looks for the killer.

EVAN
Spirit costume... Spirit costume...

Sofia walks past Evan.

SOFIA
I'm going outside to take that
break if you wanna join.

EVAN
Sorry, I'm busy... But you
shouldn't go out by yourself.

She walks outside into the darkness.

EVAN (CONT'D)
Crap, I can't leave someone alone
again.

EXT. ALLEY - MOMENTS LATER

Sofia is smoking by the front door. Evan swings it open.

EVAN
Sofia, stay inside, you can get
hurt!

He SLAMS the door into her face.

SOFIA
Owe!

EVAN
Oh, my god! You ok?

SOFIA

No! A door hit my face.

(beat)

Dang it, that's my last cigarette.

EVAN

I'll get you one? There's a skate park near by, I can go bum a cigarette from a cool teen for you.

Sofia laughs at his joke.

SOFIA

No, I can find one myself. I'm fine on my own.

EVAN

I'm trying to- There's a... nothing.

SOFIA

What's going on with you?

EVAN

It's nothing. It's not nothing but I have it under control.

(beat)

I don't. I don't have anything under control. I thought I was making the right decision by leaving town... and you. But my life only got worse. I screwed up everything.

SOFIA

Evan, no one has their life right where they want it. I live off photography but I'm far from owning my own studio. It's going to take years of soul sucking jobs to afford a lease.

(beat)

But it doesn't matter. You have to keep going and hope things work out. Cause they will. The world's too hard on you for you to be hard on yourself.

EVAN

Now that sounds like the Sofia I know.

Sofia smiles then drops her lighter.

My bad.

SOFIA

EVAN (CONT'D)

I got it.

They reach down to grab it. Their hands touch. Sofia stares deeply into Evan's eyes.

They kiss.

Sofia pulls away.

SOFIA EVAN (CONT'D)
We shouldn't have done that. We shouldn't have broken up. *

SOFIA
Evan... I can't do this.

Sofia leaves. Evan sighs and slumps to the ground.

INT. DINNER HALL - 9:30PM

Our actors are mid-scene as Lucas holds a manila envelope. Nora is visibly shook and getting worse.

LUCAS
Miss Hanson was divorced but these
aren't her ex husband's papers.
Whose are these?

NORA
They're... they're...

Nora can't remember her line. Evan addresses the audience.

EVAN

My sister's divorce documents were to Miss Rose. They secretly married. I know because I was their witness.

(beat)

I mean, I witnessed their wedding. From my car. I wasn't invited.

BRUCE
We get it.

NORA
(whispers)
I never forget my lines.

EVAN
(whispers)
You're doing fine. Relax, we have
bigger stuff to worry about like-

The PERSON IN THE SPIRIT COSTUME is leaving the building.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Him.

(ref envelope)

I have to return this to the evidence room. Mr. Z is coming with me but Gabe will stay.

GABE

I'm not staying this time!

The killer runs outside. Evan, Lucas and Gabe pursue, leaving an almost hysterical Nora on stage.

GABE (CONT'D)

You got this, right?

Nora is about to have a full-blown nervous breakdown.

GABE (CONT'D)

Yeah, she's got this.

They bulldoze out the front door. Ian suspiciously follows.

EXT. MANSION - CONTINUOUS

An intimidating night sky encapsulates the mansion. Evan, Lucas and Gabe burst out.

They hide in the bushes as the killer creeps on the bus.

EVAN

He's going in our bus?

GABE

Definitely up to no good. Probably planning on turning the lights on then leaving.

(off reaction)

What? That can drain the battery.

The killer walks off the bus holding a bag.

EVAN

He's stealing someones bag.

LUCAS

It better not be mine, I got three types of moisturizers in there!

Lucas stands up and they pull him back to the ground.

Stop! EVAN GABE
You're moist enough. *

The killer disappears behind the bus.

LUCAS
Now we call the cops before he
escapes?

Lucas pulls out his phone. The killer pops up behind them and raises a pipe over their heads.

LUCAS/EVAN/GABE
AHHHHHHHHH!

Lucas's phone falls to the ground and shatters.

LUCAS
Ah, dip! I just stopped paying for
Apple Care.

The killer swings and barely misses, brush flies as they run. They flee to the front door. The murderer throws the pipe and it whacks Gabe in the back of the head.

GABE
Owe! Who does that?!?

LUCAS
Now he doesn't have a weapon!

The killer pulls out a gun.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
He's got a better weapon.

EVAN
Hopefully he throws this one too.

The killer aims the pistol at Evan.

Suddenly, Ian tackles the killer to the ground. The gun goes off and they wrestle for it. Ian punches the killer.

Lucas, Gabe and Evan lunge for the pistol in the darkness.
The gun goes off two more times.

The killer runs off. Ian lays on the ground. DEAD.

LUCAS
Oh, shit. He killed a marine.
That's like a mandatory death
penalty.

The door behind them bursts open. Jean, Bruce and Nora pile out. They stop at the sight of a lifeless Ian.

JEAN
What the hell is going on?!

NORA
(to Lucas)
Did you do this?

LUCAS
Why would I do this?

NORA
Maybe he found out.

LUCAS
He didn't find out because there's nothing to find out about.

JEAN
Find out about what?

NORA
Lucas was sleeping with Kayla.

GABE
Today?!?

LUCAS
No. When she was alive.
Hypothetically. If I was to sleep with her she'd be alive. And really into it.

EVAN
So you WERE that close?!

LUCAS
I ruined my performance for you. Do you know how many more opportunities I had tonight to take my shirt off?!
(beat)
12! I counted every single time!

GABE
You knew Lucas was having an affair and you didn't tell us?

LUCAS
I didn't even know it was an affair. We weren't that close!!!
(MORE)

LUCAS (CONT'D)

I didn't murder Ian, the murderer murdered Ian as he was trying to murder us!

JEAN

Is this true?

GABE

To be fair, I didn't see it happen but I can verify that Ian has been murdered.

EVAN

This couldn't get worse.

SOFIA (O.C.)

What happened to him?

They slowly turn around to see Sofia staring at Ian's corpse while on her smoke break.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Is he okay?

NORA

...Would you like some male nudity?

SOFIA

Is that guy DEAD!?

EVAN

He's been murdered.

SOFIA

By who!?!?

EVAN

We don't know.

BRUCE

Someone here is a murderer and we're trying to find out who.

EVAN

All the evidence points to us but we didn't do it. Collectively.

SOFIA

That makes no sense. Why would they think you all killed someone? I'm calling the cops.

EVERYONE

No!

SOFIA

Yes!

EVERYONE

No!

EVAN

We're very close to figuring out who is murdering us. And I understand how terrible that sounds.

SOFIA

US? There's MORE murders?

BRUCE

If you count the caterer, Kayla and Mikey then yes.

SOFIA

Mikey? Mikey is dead?!?

LUCAS

Figuratively? Yes. Physically? Also very much, yes.

JEAN

I am so sorry, dear. Were you guys close?

SOFIA

I just knew him through this gig today. But that doesn't matter.

EVAN

Sofia, I'm sorry. I know this doesn't make sense but please don't call the cops for 20 minutes.

SOFIA

This is insane.

NORA

It really isn't. We accidentally incriminated ourselves and everyone will think we did it.

LUCAS

I'm not going to jail, Sofia. I can't waste these muscles making panties for Victoria Secret.

BRUCE

We're also under contract. We have to finish this show without any problems for us to split \$400,000.

SOFIA

This is about money?!

GABE

No. We won't need money if we go to jail.

EVAN

Everyone needs money. Sofia, you can have some of the money!

SOFIA

What?

LUCAS

Yeah, Evan, what? She has a tip jar!

EVAN

You can take Kayla's cut. That's \$50,000. It'll be enough to open your photography studio.

SOFIA

I... woah. That's a lot of money. But no, we have to call the cops.

EVAN

You can take my cut too. \$100,000 will be more than enough for you to live your dreams.

SOFIA

Evan, you can't be serious? What kind of person do you think I am?

EVAN

A person who used trust me.

SOFIA

Used to is the key phrase there.

EVAN

Sof...

Sofia winces.

EVAN (CONT'D)

My life is such a mess and I am just now starting to see my way through this haze I've been in. I know we make this right. My friends and I don't deserve to go to prison.

GABE

(to Lucas)

He thinks he can make this right?

LUCAS

He thinks we're friends?

EVAN

Give us until 10pm to finish the show and solve this. After that we'll call the cops. Just pretend you know nothing for 20 minutes.

SOFIA

20 minutes? Fine. I'm not doing this for the money, Evan. I'm doing this for you. I hope this money helps with your haze. But this new version of Evan really sucks compared to the guy I used to know.

Sofia leaves. Lucas and Gabe drag Ian's body onto the bus. Everyone else walks inside.

BRUCE

Ray was the only one not here.

JEAN

He was keeping everyone in there when the gun went off.

NORA

He's a professional, I'm sure he's on script.

INT. DINNER HALL - 9:45PM

Everyone walks in. The room is pitch black.

NORA

Professor Bridges?

A spotlight hits Ray. He is slowly unbuttoning his shirt in what appears to be the beginning of a strip tease.

RAY
*If you are that kind of man...
 Cause I'm that kind of...*

A painfully long pause.

RAY (CONT'D)
girl.

Music comes in. With all the hip thrusting and grinding of Adina Howard, Ray provocatively performs "Freak Like Me".

RAY (CONT'D)
*I got a freaky secret, everybody
 sing... Cause we don't give a damn
 about a thing.*

The audience is stunned and silent.

RAY (CONT'D)
*Cause I will be a freak until the
 day, until the dawn.
 And we can- PUMP PUMP!
 All through the night til the early
 morn'.*

He launches himself sloppily onto the teacher's table and grinds against the surface. Mouths are dropped. Claire takes out cash and "makes it rain."

RAY (CONT'D)
*Come on and I will take you around
 the hood on a gangsta lean. Cause
 we can...*

The cast is frozen in shock from what they are witnessing.

NORA
 What in the actual fu-?

RAY
PUMP, PUMP!

Ray, now on his knees is sliding his hands down his bare chest toward his...

JEAN
 Not the crouch, Ray.

RAY
*Any time of day, it's all good for
 meeee.*

BACKGROUND MUSIC (O.C.)
*One to the two, to the two, to the
three.*

Bruce sprints up and pulls Ray's hand from his crouch.

BRUCE
*Bridges do you wanna get off the
stage with me?*
(beat)
Please towel off and tell the
missing guests what you've
uncovered while we were gone.

Ray slides off the table and turns to go, but not before
slapping his ass and looking back at the audience for one
last word.

RAY
Freak!

Sofia walks to the bar. Evan follows.

EVAN
Hey, thank you, things are crazy,
we're almost done-

SOFIA
Just because I'm doing this does
not mean we're okay. Besides from
everything else- you lied to me
tonight. You put my life at risk.
People were killed.

EVAN
I swear I was thinking about you
the whole time.

SOFIA
You weren't. When things get hard,
you never think about anyone other
than yourself. Again- you broke up
with me via a note. How much more
selfish can a person be?

EVAN
I thought it would hurt less.

SOFIA
Well, you definitely hurt me and
tonight you almost got me killed.
We are done here.

Sofia busies herself with drinks. Evan leaves, defeated.

INT. KITCHEN - 9:50PM

Everyone catches Ray up. Nora can barely handle herself.

GABE
The gun fired twice.

LUCAS
And the killer ran off and screamed
"I'm the one who shot Ian".

GABE
...I don't remember that part.

RAY
WAIT, IAN'S DEAD?!?! But why?!? He
was so hot! Hot people can't die.

LUCAS
Oh, very dead and not hot anymore.
The killer shot him in the face.

NORA
I'm going to puke.

RAY
Please don't, this is a new shirt-

She gags. He gag. She gags. He gags. She gags.

GABE
We're wasting time. Stop
lallygagging!

Lucas puts his hand on Nora's shoulder. She snatches meat
scissors from the counter and swings it at him.

NORA
Don't touch me! One of you is the
murderer! One of you is CRAZY!

RAY
If any of us is crazy it's the
crazy-shit swinging scissors.

GABE
Nora, we need you to finish the
last scene.

She hurls the scissors and they barely miss Gabe's head.

GABE (CONT'D)
...Whenever you're ready.

Ray hands Nora his tea.

RAY
Have some calming tea.

She downs it.

NORA
AHHHH! You burned me.

RAY
WELL DON'T CHUG IT! IT'S TEA!!!

NORA
THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO MAKE ME
RELAXED.

CRASH. She knocks over a stack of dishes.

LUCAS
It's working.

Jean enters.

JEAN
People are getting restless. This
show has to end.

LUCAS
Nora, we need you. You're the final
clue to our show. A show you're
doing great in. You're killing it
in front of those D.I.K. people.

She listens.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Now go out there, in front of those
DIK agents and their DIK agent
friends and give them the biggest
DIK performance of your life.

NORA
Thanks. It's just D.I.K. Not dick.

LUCAS
Chill. You don't have to be a dick
about it.

INT. DINNER HALL - LATER

They walk out in slow motion. Nora turns back. They grab her
and bring her to the stage where Bruce is performing.

BRUCE

If Miss Hanson was murdered while we were here who could have gone to the billiards room and killed her?

RAY

Miss Rose... is that pool chalk on your hand?

Nora looks to Kennedy who is paying attention. Nora settles.

NORA

I knew of a terrible affair Miss Hanson was indulging in. The pain of keeping that secret has been eating me alive.

LUCAS

(sotto)

That's dramatic.

NORA

But what you don't know about me is... I said, what you don't know about me is...

Kennedy is texting. Nora coughs to get her attention. No response.

Annoyed, Nora coughs again and bile shoots out of her mouth.

LUCAS

Nora, are you-

Nora vomits and violently convulses. Ray gags.

Nora chokes and falls to the ground. DEAD.

Everyone is silent.

Gabe claps loudly. He then realizes it wasn't part of the show and claps slower.

The rest of the audience applauds to what looked like a wonderful performance.

JEAN

We're going to jail. We're going to die or go to jail and die in jail.

LUCAS

Umm...

Jean claps enthusiastically.

JEAN
Great performance! Finish the show.

Evan walks up to a lifeless Nora.

EVAN
She was poisoned.

LUCAS
But what could have Nora- Miss Rose
had that poisoned her?

They turn towards Ray.

EVAN
The tea.

DOUG
I don't remember a tea scene.

JULIE
I think this dinner show is a
sequel.

EVAN
Ray, did you poison-

Ray takes off.

BRUCE
Come on everybody, stop him!

Evan, Gabe, Lucas, Bruce and Jean chase Ray. The audience looks around confused. They get up and follow in a stumbling, drunken mob. A teacher remains passed out at a table.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The entire crowd runs through the kitchen and chases Ray.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

They chase him through the hallway.

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

They chase him past the bar. Claire stops to order a drink.

CLAIRE
Hi, cowardly lion needs some liquid
courage.

INT. DINNER HALL - CONTINUOUS

Ray gets cornered by the curtain where he was hiding at the start of the show.

RAY
Back off! I'm not letting you get me!

BRUCE
Give up. We know you're the murder.

Bruce lunges at him and Ray disappears behind the curtain.

RAY (O.C.)
Wait! Don't do it!

Ray steps out from behind the curtain, a KNIFE IN HIS BACK.

RAY (CONT'D)
I... I didn't kill anyone.

Ray falls to the ground. DEAD.

EVERYONE
Ohhhh. / SHIT!

Bruce rips the curtains apart where Ray was stabbed. No one is there.

Evan looks at the clock: 10:00PM.

EVAN
The final clue!

Evan pulls Kayla's bracelet from his pocket and pretends it was in Ray's hand.

EVAN (CONT'D)
Mr. Z's bracelet! It must have fallen off when he stabbed Professor Bridges. Is that correct?

LUCAS
What the hell are you talking about! Yeah. Yup, I'm the murderer.

BRUCE
Case closed.

GABE
That's the show. Thanks for coming. We're officially and legally finished.

JEAN

Give a round of applause to the cast.

Everyone claps. Ray lays lifeless on the floor.

JULIE

Is he-

JEAN

Still in character? Yes.

CLAIRE

I thought Kayla was coming out for the big finale?

JEAN

She was in the last scene, you didn't see her? She was in the back- Thanks for coming. We'll have a Q&A outside, far from Ray and Nora who are giving the performance of their lives.

Bruce and Lucas drag their bodies away. Lucas waves Nora's hand to the crowd.

JEAN (CONT'D)

(to Evan)

I'm going to get my phone and transfer everyone their money.

Jean runs to get her phone.

INT. MANSION FOYER - LATER

The cast struggles to usher out an enthusiastic and very drunk audience.

DOUG

Great show. Confusing story but I usually don't understand musicals.

CLAIRE

I have some feedback!

LUCAS

We don't have time. Actually, I need feedback, does my nose look like a penis?

Sofia walks up to Evan.

SOFIA
Call the cops.

EVAN
Yeah. It's time.

Evan pulls out his phone and, with it, Kayla's bracelet.

EVAN (CONT'D)
Hold this for me, will you?

SOFIA
I'll just give it back to Jean
while you call.

EVAN
Jean? That is Kayla's bracelet.

SOFIA
No it's not. Jean gave it to Mikey
to hold on to it for her.

EVAN
What?
(beat)
Come with me.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Lucas, Bruce and Gabe close the door on the storage closet
where Nora, Ray, Mikey, Kayla and Tom lifelessly lay.

Evan sprints in.

EVAN
Where's Jean?

LUCAS
She's calling the cops. At least we
can use this money to win at court.
An American judge would never send
a rich person to prison.

In the corner is the bag the killer stole from the bus.

EVAN
How'd that get there? The killer
dropped it after Ian tackled him.

Evan opens the bag. Inside is clothes, the bloody knife, the
pistol, arsenic, and Kayla's broken phone.

EVAN (CONT'D)
Who's bag is this?

Evan pulls out the bloody knife.

GABE
We gotta stop putting our
fingerprint on everything.

BRUCE
That's Kayla's bag.

LUCAS
So Kayla is the murder!?!?!
BANG! The storage closet SHAKES.

BRUCE
...Kayla?

IT SLAMS OPEN. Out walks Nora, covered in vomit and blood.

NORA
AHHHH!!!

EVERYONE
AHHHH!!!

GABE
ZOMBIE!

Gabe punches Nora in the face.

NORA
Ahhh, I'm not a zombie, I'm alive.

LUCAS
Holy shit, the poison didn't poison
her!

Nora violently coughs up bile.

EVERYONE
(disgusted)
Ohhhhh.

EVAN
No, it did. It just didn't kill
her.

EVERYONE
(realizing)
Ohhhhh.

BRUCE
The poison wasn't strong enough!
Like our show!

NORA
He's her.

LUCAS
What?

NORA
I mean, her knows he.

EVAN
You should go to the hospital.

Nora hands Lucas a bloody piece of paper.

LUCAS
It's a plane ticket. For Thomas
Schiffer. The caterer has the same
name as the tour owner?

EVAN
The caterer is the tour owner.
Wouldn't Jean recognize Mr.
Schiffer... Where's Jean?!?

They sprint to the entrance of the mansion.

INT. FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Jean is hustling out the door. The cast runs to her but
audience members are in the way, praising their performance.

EVAN
She's getting away!

Jean's about to escape when RAY GRABS HER.

RAY
Nope! You're going nowhere.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

They bring Jean back.

LUCAS
Wait, Ray? You're alive?

RAY
I faked my death.

EVERYONE

What?!?

RAY

I faked my death- I knew what was coming. You really think the gay black guy wasn't going to be targeted. Psh, white privilege at it's finest.

CUT TO:

INT. DINNER HALL - FLASHBACK

Ray runs behind the curtain. He spots the fake knife he was supposed to stab Evan with at the start of the show. Ray sticks it to his back and stumbles out to the crowd.

RAY (V.O.)

Everyone was getting murdered and I didn't like it! I wasn't going to be next.

INT. STORAGE CLOSET - FLASHBACK

With one eye open he watches Nora get punched by Gabe.

RAY (V.O.)

So I faked my death and laid there until the murderer was found.

INT. HALLWAY - BACK TO PRESENT

Everyone listens.

RAY

I lied about my pain like I'm Jussie Smollett.

LUCAS

You and Nora are alive? Is no one dead?

Lucas opens the storage room and kicks Mikey.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

He's still dead.

He kicks him again.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
I'm 90% sure.

He kicks him again.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
95.

NORA
Stop kicking dead people!

GABE
What do we do about Jean?

Bruce grabs plastic wrap from the storage closet and wraps it tightly around Jean. He picks up Kayla's bag.

BRUCE
Call the police. We'll lock her in the pantry until they arrive.

RAY
I can't believe you murdered four people!?!

NORA
And attempted one more. Don't forget that.

Bruce throws Jean over his shoulder.

SOFIA
Whose calling the cops?

Evan looks at his bank account on his phone.

EVAN
We still haven't been paid. If she killed the owner AND is going to be arrested, we're going to need her to send us that money.

NORA
How?

LUCAS
Waterboard her ass!!! Too much?

NORA
Way too much.

EVAN
That's the line for you?

*

RAY
I'll talk to her. I can get money without damaging her nips.

NORA
Be strong, Ray.

RAY
Please, I'm always strong. I'm in
my 20's.

NORA
How many 20's are you now?

RAY
Go die again.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Ray walks over as Bruce is cutting Jean free and sneaking out. They see Ray and stop. Bruce charges Ray.

RAY
(high pitched)
AHHHHHHH! AHHHHHHH AHHHHHHHH!!!!

Bruce halts, unsure how to respond. Jean runs and Bruce follows holding Kayla's bag.

Ray continues to scream. The rest of the group runs in.

LUCAS
What's going on?

The sound of the tour bus starting is heard.

GABE
Is that our bus?

They dart outside.

EXT. PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Ian's corpse sits lifelessly in the backseat. Everyone runs out. Audience members watch.

NORA
They're getting away!

INT/EXT. BUS - CONTINUOUS

Bruce drives over the same skeleton decoration Gabe hit. It claws out from under the bus as it's head is crushed by the tire. Bruce turns around, the highway on ramp within site.

Evan sees the pile of pumpkins by the door.

He grabs one and runs into the street. Bruce sees him and steps on the gas- he's going to run over Evan. Sofia follows him into the street.

SOFIA

Evan! What are you doing?

Right before getting hit, Evan hurls a pumpkin at the windshield. It explodes and covers Bruce's view.

The bus swerves towards Sofia. She's petrified as it comes barreling towards her.

Sofia is about to get run over when Evan jumps in the way and pushes her to the ground.

The bus misses her but slams into Evan, hammering him down. Bruce and Jean scream as they crash into a tree.

GABE

See, it's harder to drive than it looks.

EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Everyone scrambles to the bus. Jean and Bruce climb out.

Kayla's bag lays by the steps. Ray walks up and pulls out the gun. He aims it at Jean and Bruce.

RAY

Freeze! Don't think I've never watched any of those hot southern boy Youtube gun tutorials. Cause I have. Many times.

Sofia walks up to Evan. He's motionless on the ground.

SOFIA

Evan?!

He stirs.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Thank god! I thought you were dead. Are you okay?

EVAN

No. A bus hit my face.

Evan smiles and Sofia laughs.

SOFIA

Well, this looks more painful than getting hit in the face by a door.

EVAN

I don't know, I hit you pretty hard.

(beat)

But for real, I'm pretty sure my ribs are broken.

Sofia helps Evan walk over to everyone else.

JEAN

You don't understand. None of this was supposed to happen.

NORA

You weren't supposed to kill anybody?

JEAN

No, that was supposed to happen. But it was only supposed to happen to the caterer.

GABE

You mean the OWNER of the tour company.

BRUCE

You mean her husband.

There is genuine shock on the groups faces.

JEAN

I never intended on hurting you, you were going to get paid- but my husband had to die.

BRUCE

He was an awful man. He treated Jeannie so horribly.

RAY

Jeannie? Are you two a thangggg?

BRUCE

More than a thing, Ray. I love her.

RAY

I've been a third wheel this whole time!?!?

NORA

I might puke again.

LUCAS

Who keeps a secret relationship
from people?

JEAN

My husband was planning on cutting
all of you out. He made bad
investments and needed to take all
the assets he could and flee. I was
included as one of his assets.

NORA

How 1950's of him. And basically
every year.

LUCAS

What was his investment? Did he buy
Bitcoin?

GABE

She said bad investments, not the
smartest investment ever.

JEAN

The plan was he would pose as a
caterer and once the show started,
he and I would leave. We were going
to secretly fly out of the country
with all the money.

BRUCE

I couldn't let her go, she would be
forever stuck with that asshole. So
we devised an ulterior plan.

LUCAS

To stab the schmuck?

BRUCE

Not stab, poison. We hoped people
would think he had a heart attack.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. BAR - FLASHBACK

Thomas Schiffer holds a tray of uncut carrots and pulls the
largest knife from Sofia's bar.

INT. KITCHEN - FLASHBACK

Jean mixes the poison in the Lipton tea. Bruce has her hand around her when Tom walks in. Tom holds the tray and knife.

JEAN (V.O.)
Before we could poison him he saw
me with Bruce and flipped out.

Bruce calms Tom but Tom slugs him in the face. They wrestle on the ground as Jean tries to keep them quiet. Tom swings the knife. Bruce knocks it out of his hands.

Jean tries to pull Tom off but he throws her to the ground. He stands over Jean, about to strike her.

JEAN (V.O.)
He swung at me and in the heat of
the moment I grabbed the knife and
plunged it into him.

Tom dies and they drag his body to the bathroom.

JEAN (V.O.)
Obviously with a knife wound the
police would connect me to him once
they found out who the caterer was.

BRUCE (V.O.)
We were going to start the show
then leave.

INT. PANTY - FLASHBACK

Kayla goes through Toms pockets and finds his wallet.

BRUCE (V.O.)
But before we could Kayla found his
ID. I tried to reason with her when
Kayla lunged at Jean to get out.

JEAN (V.O.)
I still had the knife and by
reflex, I pulled it out and she
thrust herself onto the blade.

Kayla dives into Jeans knife as she tries to fight her way out. Shock and fear slap Jean and Bruce in the face.

INT. PARKING LOT - PRESENT TIME

The same shock is on everyone's face.

BRUCE

It was so fast. We didn't mean to.
We didn't want to kill anyone else.
But then...

EVAN

Mikey?

JEAN

We really didn't mean to kill him.

SOFIA

Right. Cause you were going to
frame him.

JEAN

Yes.

INT. NEGLECTED ROOM - FLASHBACK

Jean hides from the killer. There is a loud thud and she sees
Mikey fall to the ground with a box. He lays there.

JEAN

AHHHHH!

The killer stares at Mikey, who gets up.

JEAN (V.O.)

We didn't realize he was there
until the box he was holding made
him slip to the ground.

Mikey tries to escape and the killer grabs him. Mikey rips off
the mask to reveal Bruce.

JEAN (V.O.)

We were staging a chase to make me
look innocent.

INT. PARKING LOT - PRESENT TIME

Jean is filled with regret.

JEAN

He ran and Bruce stopped him. Mikey
was really strong. I was afraid he
would hurt Bruce.

GABE

So you stabbed him.

JEAN

I did.

INT. NEGLECTED ROOM - FLASHBACK

Mikey flips Bruce to the ground and is about to hit him with a candle holder when Jean stabs him repetitively in the back.

BRUCE (V.O.)

And you know how Ian died. I was getting Kayla's bag so we could throw away all the evidence.

INT. PARKING LOT - FLASHBACK

Bruce shoots Ian then hustles around the corner. He rips off his costume and runs back inside through the side door to join Jean and Nora heading out to the parking lot.

INT. PARKING LOT - PRESENT TIME

They listen.

RAY

Why did you poison my tea?

BRUCE

Actually, we didn't. We got so confused before the show with Tom finding us that we left the poison at the refreshment table.

JEAN

You just made the wrong tea.

RAY

Well, damn! I would have been livid if I killed myself with Lipton.

JEAN

So, what now? We haven't called the cops and I have all your money.

LUCAS

I doubt you even have the cash.

Jean pulls her phone out and displays her bank account.

JEAN

And because of the pain Bruce and I gave you-

NORA
Literal poison.

GABE
He threw a pipe at my head.

*

JEAN
You can keep our share. That's
almost \$70,000 each, including
Sofia. All we ask is that you
"couldn't find a phone" and give us
a few hours head start.

EVAN
\$70,000 is a lot of money...

JEAN
You have the evidence with our DNA,
your bank accounts are linked, all
I have to do is click send.

Jean clicks the app, it immediately opens and all their bank
information is listed.

EVAN
No. It's time we do the right thing
instead of the thing that is right
for us.

He dials his cell phone.

EVAN (CONT'D)
Hi, I'd like to report a murder.
Actually numerous murders.

Jean puts down her phone and drops her head into her hands.

NORA
And one attempted! Make sure they
know about me.

RAY
Honey, don't worry, you make sure
everyone knows about you.

EXT. MANSION - LATER

POLICE push Bruce and Jean into a cruiser, Claire watches.

BRUCE
This can't be happening, I can't go
to prison!

CLAIRE

You get one phone call, call me.
(whispers)
Phone sex.

BRUCE

(disgusted)
Actually, get me out of here.

Kennedy walks up to Nora.

KENNEDY

Your closing scene was phenomenal.

Nora freaks out and nonchalantly cleans vomit off her face.

NORA

You liked my monologue? I had so many I couldn't possibly know which one.

KENNEDY

The monologues were fine. It was your commitment to the vomiting death that was so real.

NORA

Yup, felt real too. I have a card if you want it.
(realizing)
Oh my god! I'm out of cards.

KENNEDY

Here's mine.

Kennedy hands it to Nora who grasps it tightly in her hands.

NORA

Wow... Can I be honest with you?

KENNEDY

Of course. I'm from Hollywood, we're always honest.

NORA

I thought I needed someone else to succeed. I was desperately trying to get noticed. But I realized I don't need anyone else to be great. I just have to believe in myself and that my hard work will get me to where I want to be.

KENNEDY

Very true. So do you not want my card?

NORA

I want it very much. Actually, can I have a second one in case I lose this card?

KENNEDY

Let me know if you're ever in New York.

NORA

I'll be there right now. I mean, as soon as you want. I mean... thank you.

Lucas stands in the background pulling his bag from the bus.

LUCAS

Yeah, BOYYYYYYYYYY!

Kennedy walks up to Gabe.

KENNEDY

And you! You were phenomenal!

GABE

Me? I was the host.

KENNEDY

How long have you been doing comedy?

GABE

Since 7pm today.

KENNEDY

Give me a call too.

She gives Gabe her card and leaves. Evan walks up to Sofia.

EVAN

Hey, sorry I lied and put everyone's life at risk. That was selfish and dumb.

SOFIA

Yes, it was, BUT- If it makes you feel better, I may- just MAY have done the same thing.

EVAN

Really?

SOFIA

Yeah. This was a scary situation to be in. The cops would have for sure thought you were the killer. Plus, I would want the money I earned as well. I'm trying to get out of this town too.

EVAN

It's not that great out there either.

SOFIA

Well, if I had enough money, I would start my own studio in another city and be just as disappointed about that place too.

EVAN

I'm sorry I stopped Jean from transferring it. If she had, I was serious about giving you mine.

Depressed, the group is reminded of their financial loss.

GABE

We may still get it... after the trial and lawyers and litigation.

Ray walks toward the bus and picks up the phone Jean dropped.

RAY

Bingo!

Ray types in her code. After some busy finger movements everyone's phone dings with a notification.

RAY (CONT'D)

I sent everyone their money. You think I didn't look when she was unlocking her phone for me earlier? Three Musketeers my ass.

Everyone is relieved. Evan comes up to Sofia.

EVAN

I have your \$50 grand and you can have mine like I promised. So... do you have Venmo? Or we can go to the ATM at 7/11?

SOFIA

Evan, I don't need your money.
Invest it.

EVAN

I'm not actually a stock broker.
I'm just broke-er.

SOFIA

I know. At least you're not broker
anymore.

EVAN

Hey, I shouldn't have left you a
note. I shouldn't have left you at
all. I'm really sorry. I regret a
lot about where my life went. But
my biggest regret is I didn't get
to do it with you.

SOFIA

Well... I don't know where I want
my life to go now. But I'd like to
see what it's like again with you.

EVAN

I'd like that, Sofia.

SOFIA

Call me Sof.

They kiss. The rest of the group comes up.

NORA

Evan, thanks for figuring out who
it was. We couldn't have done it
without you.

LUCAS

And for crashing the bus. We
thought Gabe was going to do that.

GABE

I did when everyone was sleeping.

NORA

You saved us all from going to
jail. This really was the best
performance of your life.

Evan smiles.

RAY
So, what now? It's Halloween and
we're done being scream queens.

LUCAS
Let's celebrate!

EVAN
To the 5 Musketeers!

RAY
We can retire the whole
"musketeers" thing.

EVAN
To the 5 amigos!

LUCAS
To never having to act again!

NORA
To be- or not to be- a harsh prison
sentence.

RAY
What?

SOFIA
Go to the hospital.

NORA
Yeah, there's still poison in me.

LUCAS
(ref puke)
There's poison all over you.

Nora laughs, everyone else laughs. Nora violently vomits all
over Lucas. Ray gags.

END.

WHILE CREDITS ARE ROLLING:

EXT. MANSION - LATER

The gang gathers their stuff. A female REPORTER comes up to
them.

REPORTER
Excuse me? Were you the Murder
Mystery group?

Everyone suspiciously looks at her.

LUCAS
Who wants to know?

REPORTER
I'm Aly Han, KCRK Local News. Would
you like to be on TV?

NORA
...TV?

SMASH TO:

A MONTAGE OF THEIR SOLO INTERVIEWS.

LUCAS
I figured out who the murderer was
by myself. I don't think the others
even knew there was a murder.

GABE
I've been solving crimes for years.
Mainly this year.

NORA
I uncovered the murder and stayed
in character the entire time. I'm
like Nancy Drew if she solved
crimes that actually mattered.

EVAN
They're saying they solved it? No,
I did. I had a whole hero's
journey.

LUCAS
I can take my shirt off if it'll
help your ratings? I'll take it off
anyway.

RAY
I think we all learned a valuable
lesson today: Never go to a murder
mystery dinner.

NORA
Can I be the top billed witness?
Critics say I'm the Meryl Streep of
Mystery Dinner shows and yes, I'm
my biggest critic.

SOFIA
(covering face)
I'm good, I really don't want to be
on this.

Lucas is now shirtless.

LUCAS
Then I jumped for the gun bam bam
and I dodged all the bullets he
shot at me. Like Keanu Reeves but
sexier.

GABE
If the police need help with other
cases you send them my way. Yes, my
fees are high and yes, I only
accept Bitcoin.

NORA
Is it too soon to call Kennedy?

LUCAS
If you need more information with
these murders I've been live
tweeting about it all day.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
(reading phone)
"Shit. Kayla's dead. Now we gotta
hide this from everyone!"- That got
20 retweets.

GABE
"Lucas and Evan look great without
shirts". Well, I work out everyday.
Three hours of Kegel exercises. Can
you tell? I'm doing them right now.

EVAN
Stock broker. I'm sorry what was
the question? Oh, Evan Townsend.

NORA
(on phone)
Hi Kennedy, it's Nora. I'm on TV!
It's a news interview but can you
see if I can get my own trailer?

LUCAS
(reading Tweet)
"Elon Musk is the Hugh Hefner of
science stuff".

(MORE)

LUCAS (CONT'D)

That Tweet didn't have anything to do with today. It was just topical.

SOFIA

I don't know why I'm being interviewed, I have just as many questions as you do.

RAY

When will this air and how much are we getting paid?

(off response)

Oh. No, honey. I don't work for free.

NORA

Do you think this murder mystery thing will have a-

(gags)

sequel?

(beat)

I need to go to the hospital. I can feel the poison eroding my kidneys. If you have further questions you can interview me in the ER.

END OF CREDITS.