

RQG – 17 – Good Cop, Bad Cop, Stabby Cop and Bertie

Content Warnings

- Police
- Innuendo
- Interrogation & threats
- Bullying & insults
- Physical violence & injury (inc. animal injury)
- Alcohol
- Discussions of: explosions & bombing, death (inc. drowning), imprisonment
- Mentions of: violence, blades, blood
- SFX: ticking, continuous background chatter, yelling

[Show Theme - Intro]

ALEX

Hello and welcome to episode 17 of the Rusty Quill Gaming podcast, I'm your host and GM Alex Newall and we're coming to you from London, England. And with me, making me happy, keeping me sane I have:

JAMES

James Ross

BRYN

Bryn Monroe

BEN

Ben Meredith

LYDIA

Lydia Nicholas

ALEX

Playing the fictional characters which are somehow helping me stay sane:

JAMES

Sir Bertrand McGuffingham, one of those summer, summer, summer nights,
well-a well-a well-a...ooh?

[Group laughter]

BRYN

Hamid, the halfling sorcerer.

BEN

Zolf, the slightly suspicious of Haringay.

LYDIA

Oh right yes, Sasha, the newly scarred.

ALEX

And Brutor the dog. [howls] Right, so-

BRYN

How do you feel that this is your most enduring NPC?

[Group laughter]

ALEX

So, you guys were sent to find the people who had destroyed and/or stolen, we found out destroyed the Simulacrum and track them down and bring them back by hook or by crook. You managed to do so, admittedly by going via a little bit of Sasha's old friends.

LYDIA

Yep!

ALEX

And came out of it with only a magic ring and a halfling to show for it. And I mean, what's the worst that can happen when there's a magic ring and a halfling involved?

BRYN

A possibly evil magic ring and a halfling...

BEN

[laughs]

ALEX

And yeah, you guys made it to the compound, you guys got in, one of the people got away but in fairness gave you everything they could, did a really, really professionally impressively-

LYDIA

I, it was a very graceful, like there was a good arc, he took the weight well.

BEN

Are you still all of a flutter?

LYDIA

I kind of, I kind of recognised him from somewhere, I don't know, probably a bar I was, that was too cool for me to go into.

[Group laughter]

ALEX

And the other person of course was captured and made unconscious, I would have said there was a third person but instead there were two other people, by which I mean two half people.

[Group laughter]

JAMES

Mmm!

ALEX

Who were left stricken. Stricken, they were, in the middle of the what was once a church. And however the awkward, awkward moment when Sasha, despite having been warned "don't go in the hut"-

LYDIA

What?!

ALEX

Thought she might, you know-

JAMES

Go in the hut...

LYDIA

Things had been going really well

ALEX

Things *had* been going really well.

LYDIA

-with the, like, five crits I rolled, the one thing that I didn't roll was a decent Disable Device.

ALEX

And it's fine, it's not like it was rigged to blow up literally everything on the battle map-

LYDIA

Yeah...

ALEX

-just all of it. You guys manage to capture the awesome boss character who had loads of ability and now I'm never going to let anyone know because they're not just not going to come into play-

LYDIA

Aww...

ALEX

And that's fine too!

BRYN

Quasi-[unclear 02:36], just reuse them.

ALEX

Ooh, SO many times!

BRYN

Somebody else with a very similar skillset.

[Group laughter]

ALEX

SO MANY times!

[Group laughter]

BRYN

I am Gee.

[Group laughter]

ALEX

Face me! Yes, I am Gee, this is Goo, Go and Gor!

[Group laughter]

ALEX

Um - anyway, you guys managed to get them back through Other London, avoiding a mob on the way and got them back to Haringay, who ducked out the office to see how many people saw you guys come back.

JAMES

LOADS.

ALEX

The answer being: pretty much most of London who were anywhere near you.

LYDIA

Yep, Other and Upper.

ALEX

Yep, all the Londons.

LYDIA

Including definitely Barret's gang.

BEN

Yeah, so I think the last thing that happened was Guy, or if that is her real name, gave us a creepy smile when we ungagged her.

LYDIA

A little bit.

JAMES

And took off the false moustache and-

LYDIA

And the wig.

JAMES

Yes, disguise.

ALEX

And the wig, yeah, she had the whole nine yards.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

All right, Mrs not-Guy, who are you and what is this all about?

ALEX (as GUY)

I was told I shouldn't be speaking.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

And yet you - and yet you ARE, young lady. Hah! Caught you out, and if I can do that, it doesn't bode very well for you now does it?

[Group laughter]

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Alright, no. NOW you've got permission to speak, except any spell stuff and-

JAMES (as BERTIE)

I'll chop your head off.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Yep.

BRYN

There you go.

ALEX (as GUY)

Why don't we shake on it?

BEN (as ZOLF)

Ooh you're so, so clever. Just get on with it.

ALEX (as GUY)

Get on with what?

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Telling us what's going on.

ALEX (as GUY)

Er, we appear to be in some kind of Police station...

LYDIA (as SASHA)

No, what YOU were doing.

ALEX (as GUY)

Your friend and his, his, his...

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Young lady, stop deliberately misunderstanding the question, it's making me cross!

LYDIA

I get a dagger out. And-

BRYN (as HAMID)

Er now, probably shouldn't-

ALEX (as GUY)

In a Police station, really?

BRYN (as HAMID)

Yeah, Haringay's going to come back, probably not going to be too pleased.

JAMES

Bertie just stands front of the door, back to the door.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Oh that's very clever Bertie!

(Group laughter)

JAMES (as BERTIE)

I'm just going to stand here and look at this fun door!

LYDIA

I just hold the dagger and it's like what-

ALEX (as GUY)

If you were going to you would have done already and we both know that don't we.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Oh but we did it to the others!

BRYN (as HAMID)

Er, no.

BEN (as ZOLF)

I don't necessarily, you didn't hear the conversations where I was going to drown you and they persuaded me not to but I'm - I can be quite capricious actually so we could just take another pop down to the Thames or I've got a bucket somewhere...

JAMES (as BERTIE)

And I would never hit a lady, but I would throw a lady out of a window if she'd tried to blow me up.

ALEX(as GUY)

Er, would you leash your dog? It's just I feel myself finding it harder to communicate when you have such a rabid animal running loose.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

What on... right, like, no, we're not going to leash the dog. What even is it...?

ALEX (as GUY)

And you gave it a sword, honestly, what's wrong with you people?

LYDIA (as SASHA)

You - wait!

BEN (as ZOLF)

Oh I see what's going on here.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Ah!

BEN (as ZOLF)

Oh, oh, oh! It is a clever insult!

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Oh! Well that's rude isn't it!

ALEX (as GUY)

Um, is it? It talks! Goodness me!

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Oh - like see, this dagger remembers what your kidneys felt like. And I mean it's, I'm thinking I'm feeling some nostalgia from it, so how about you just tell us what is going on?

ALEX (as GUY)

Well I'd say that the state of the current market in China's quite poor, the export to import-

LYDIA

OK, I'm rolling an Intimidate check. **(ROLL)**

ALEX

Ooh, it's good!

JAMES

17.

LYDIA

So 16.

ALEX

OK, give yourself a really solid intimidate attempt.

LYDIA

I did!

ALEX

You know what I mean.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

This dagger remembers the taste of your kidneys and I don't think that it would mind another lick. I'm pretty sure that Zolf is able to stitch you up before Haringay comes back, but you'd still feel it...

ALEX

More, push it, go on!

LYDIA

Right so - and I get the thing like right under her jaw and I'm like - **(whispers menacingly as SASHA)** these guys probably wouldn't hit a woman, but I haven't got any problem with that.

ALEX

There we go! **(as GUY)** Right. Point well made. Er, specifics would help.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Why's Haringay so worried about who's seen you?

ALEX (as GUY)

Well I'm presumably not a very popular person. Riots happen.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Who are you?

ALEX (as GUY)

Who am I?

BEN (as ZOLF)

And why are you - or were you wearing that ridiculous disguise?

ALEX (as GUY)

Ridiculous? It seemed to work on you guys quite well. Er, which name would you like? I've used a lot. I suppose you would know me as Guy.

BEN (as ZOLF)

How about your birth name?

ALEX (as GUY)

My birth name?

BEN (as ZOLF)

How about your birth name, yeah.

ALEX (as GUY)

Ooft.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

The one that people know you by.

ALEX (as GUY)

Oh that'd be "Guy" presumably.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Before that then.

ALEX (as GUY)

Ooh before that there was a Terence...

BEN (as ZOLF)

This is why I'm going for your birth name.

ALEX (as GUY)

Oh fine. Well, I - ooh, yeah, that's a dagger, OK. I'd s- I'd- I-

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Dagger...!

ALEX (as GUY)

I'll give you. Mm hm... OK, OK, we'll say that er...

ALEX

Give me Knowledge (Nobility) whilst this has been going on.

JAMES

Nobility - I thought, I was wondering if I could stick that in at some point!

(ROLL) 15.

ALEX

The face is definitely ringing bells and you cannot quite place it, possibly due to just not having seen it a lot as opposed to not being noble.

JAMES

Mm.

ALEX

It's more like - you're someone's cousin. Whose cousin are you?

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Now young lady, now I-

JAMES

Now I think I would like to attempt to intimidate her on the basis of some of the background knowledge that I have in the sense that, like, I know that she is part of the nobility.

ALEX

I wouldn't allow another Intimidate check on top, really.

JAMES

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Fair enough. OK.

ALEX

Plus, I mean you're not going to-

LYDIA

I've got a dagger like right there!

ALEX

Yeah, it's-

JAMES

That's true, that's much more intimidating.

LYDIA

Like it's pointing, like there might be a little, there's a trip of one droplet of blood.

ALEX

Let's be honest, she's at least stopped insulting you all, so there's a step.

JAMES

Yeah.

BEN

A slight cut. I will shuffle over to Hamid and go **(as ZOLF)** You doing all right with this?

BRYN

I shrug. I've been just lounging at the back smiling and chuckling, I'm finding her really amusing.

(Group laughter)

BEN (as ZOLF)

Just making sure you aren't going to have another wobble.

ALEX

Shakes his head?

BRYN

Yeah.

ALEX

OK.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Now young lady, now clearly you are from a quite well-to-do background, now what on earth would your parents say if they saw you down here now - I, I, I am a man myself of very high standing and your face looks very familiar to me. Now I'm sure that everybody else here wouldn't want to be quite so actively familiar, I'm sure it would cause quite the scandal if your name were to be bandied around this Police station, perhaps still further.

ALEX (as GUY)

Oh I do hope it would. Oh yes, that's the dagger again. OK, fine. I'll give you a clue, it begins with a B and I have a certain older brother who quite frankly I can't stand. Seems your type. I think you'd like him. I bet he likes you.

BRYN

I chuckle again and I step forward and make eye contact with her, and I say (**as HAMID**) It was very clever. You made the rest of that gang think you were on their side, you convinced them all that you were a zealot, the reason you were doing this is because you hated modernity.

ALEX (as GUY)

Oh, oh yes. Oh, ah, machines! Ooh, ah, terrible, terrible things. Ooh! Etc.

BRYN (as HAMID)

I'm very impressed. But I can't quite work out why you really did it. Is it all to get back at... someone?

ALEX (as GUY)

Oh goodness no. I mean let's be honest, there's nothing wrong with a little bit of independence. So presumably loads of independence, like heaping piles of independence distributed discreetly amongst numerous banks with no way of tracing it is presumably significantly better.

BRYN (as HAMID)

Oh it wouldn't be something as mundane as money, please tell me you're more interesting than that.

ALEX (as GUY)

Oh please, come on now. Money?

ALEX

Give me a Diplomacy check because it's a nice attempt.

BRYN

23.

ALL

Oooh!

JAMES

Ooh yeah!

ALEX (as GUY)

Oh I'm many things but I'm not boring dear, OK? And yes money, hm, hm, yes. Because money, money's all anyone cares about I'm sure. I'm sure there are some more important things than money, OK?

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Yeah.

ALEX (as GUY)

Maybe some people happen to have something to show the world, maybe that, hm? And maybe money just gets things done.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Given your family name I'd have expected something of a more artistic kind of bent.

ALEX (as GUY)

Oh well done. Oh do, do, do give yourself a clap. Mm yep, that's the dagger, fine.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Right, is everyone-

BEN

I will, look **(single clap)** Well done Zolf!

JAMES (as BERTIE)

(laughs) Well done!

BEN

Thank you, thank you very much.

(Group laughter)

ALEX (as GUY)

Yes it's, it's great fun, great fun being the sister of such a , such a lord. Oh I do love it so I er-

BRYN (as HAMID)

Did you hear he survived?

ALEX (as GUY)

Oh did he? Brilliant!

BEN (as ZOLF)

I saved him, actually.

ALEX (as GUY)

DID you? Brilliant!

BRYN (as HAMID)

He did.

ALEX (as GUY)

Fantastic! Oh I do hope you, I do hope he rewarded you, he's a big fan of keeping his friends close.

LYDIA

Sasha still is - doesn't know - because she wouldn't have known the names of the people in the building?

JAMES

Yeah.

ALEX

No of course not, of course not.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Like, what is going on and what is this {stutters} - it's an Other London swear word that none of you know!

(Group laughter)

LYDIA (as SASHA)

This **(growls angrily in Other London)** is talking about? I'm the one with the dagger, I should be the one that's informed.

ALEX (as GUY)

Please, yes, yes, that's fine. Please, calm her down.

BRYN (as HAMID)

Byron's sister.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Who's Byron?

BEN (as ZOLF)

Lord Byron, the fat poet.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Oh right.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

I preferred his earlier work.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

The drunk guy?

BEN (as ZOLF)

Yeah.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Oh right well he's great, I can see why you're all so worked up about him.

ALEX (as GUY)

I know, right?

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Poetry doesn't really reach Other London that much.

BEN (as ZOLF)

It's because we are impressed to find that he has such a massively inferior sibling.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Ooooh, burn young lady, burn! And he's a water cleric, that's extra burns!
Oooh!

BEN (as ZOLF)

I can actually create some water to treat that for you if you want.

(Group laughter)

BRYN (as HAMID)

And Zolf we've just got something-

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Ooh soothing, soothing your BURRRRRN! Yeah!

(Group laughter)

BEN (as ZOLF)

Oh I don't think I've had that much fun in an interrogation for years! Oh dear!

ALEX (as GUY)

Yes, well I'm glad everyone's having so much fun.

BEN (as ZOLF)

I am!

LYDIA (as SASHA)

So where's the blueprints?

ALEX (as GUY)

Very funny.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

No, where are they? They weren't in the church.

ALEX (as GUY)

Well obviously. Look I'm all for the fun banter, but frankly if you're going to send someone to take the things the least you can do is pretend and take it on the chin when I find out.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

What...?

ALEX (as GUY)

Really? Really?! I'm having THAT bad a day? Honestly.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

What? What blue- wh- no, what, where are the blueprints?

ALEX (as GUY)

Well you can tell me now because frankly I haven't got a clue.

BEN (as ZOLF)

You don't know where Jeremy's gone, have you?

ALEX (as GUY)

Oh goodness me. Perhaps a standing ovation for the cler- ah, that's the dagger again. OK.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Wait! This might take me a while, but I'll stand up. **(applauds)** Well done sir, well done Mr Smith, well done!

BEN (as ZOLF)

Thank you for that.

ALEX (as GUY)

Has anyone told you all that you're incredibly obnoxious? Apart from the halfling, he's just quirky.

BEN (as ZOLF)

That's part of the point.

BRYN

I smile at her again. I've been very much just appreciating this humour as her interrogation has gone on.

LYDIA

I am now sort of, I lean on a knee that is holding her down.

ALEX

Sure.

LYDIA

Like it's, you know it's not agony but just...

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

I want her to be physically uncomfortable.

ALEX (as GUY)

(sounding strained) Mm hm. Yep. OK.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

About as uncomfortable as I feel mentally talking about all of these people that I've never heard of and plots which are not my area of expertise.

ALEX (as GUY)

Well, yep, so. Fantastic. They're out there somewhere, so there's that. I just thought at least you guys would have had the competency to find them, I'm honestly, honestly I'm a bit disappointed, I thought I had an adversary, not an adversary and a thief.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Well given the ease with which we took you down, you might want to start looking a little bit lower.

ALEX (as GUY)

Ooh. Ooh. How's the neck dear?

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Well it's not great. Why would you put a whole room of gunpowder next to where you live? Like-

ALEX (as GUY)

I live? (laughs) No.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Yeah.

ALEX (as GUY)

No. I think you have the wrong idea there dear.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Why would you have something that's massive and incredibly dangerous next to a place where you're going to be for any period of time whatsoever? Clearly it's not a trap, that would be an idiot's game, and I know an idiot's game when I see one.

BEN

(laughs)

ALEX (as GUY)

I'll tell you what, I'll trade all of you an answer for every time he doesn't speak, how about that?

LYDIA (as SASHA)

I don't think you're in a position to negotiate, mate.

ALEX (as GUY)

Eh, well, fine.

JAMES

Bertie leans in and just goes **(as BERTIE)** Aaaaaaarrrrrrrrggggggggghhhhhh!!!

(as HIMSELF) Takes a breath. **(as BERTIE)** Aaaaaaarrrrrrrrggggggggghhhhhh!!!

(Group reduced to helpless laughter)

JAMES

Straight in her ear. And does that, and keeps-

ALEX

Thanks for that! And the ears of all the listeners!

(Group laughter)

JAMES

Yep! He keeps doing that, and you know what, he's going to take 10, he's going to do that for 10 whole minutes!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

I'll tell you what, at some point during all of your ranting and raving, and the interrogation in fairness, the door starts to rattle as Haringay starts coming in.

BEN

I just er bonk on Bertie's armour.

(Group laughter)

BEN (as ZOLF)

Bertie. Bertie! You - get out the way.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Ahhh fine. Move, moves back to the door.

LYDIA

I step away from the woman, I sort of flow back into a sort of nonchalant position, like I don't know-

ALEX

Oh, what do you flow like?

LYDIA

I don't know, like oil downhill into a jelly mould that is shaped like something extremely cool.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

I love it!

BEN

Ow! I think you just broke one of the tendons in my neck with that laugh!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Oh I love it! OK so yeah, Haringay comes in, sees a small little trickle of blood from the woman's neck. Not a lot, just a bit. Smirks. Looks around, lingers on Sasha just a moment-

LYDIA

I look incredibly nonchalant, like this is the nonchal-est lance...

ALEX

Gives an arbitrary nod, comes over, closing the door behind him and leans on the desk.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Sorry about that lads...and lady.

BEN (as ZOLF)

That's all right, I see why you were so concerned.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

I'm gonna be honest, I'd rather not have all of the population know that the guy who just... that the lady! Hm, that's interesting!

BEN (as ZOLF)

Oh, you don't know who she is. Byron's sister.

LYDIA

Wait, do you say that in character?

BEN

Yeah.

LYDIA

Alright.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Really?! Well, OK. Give me a moment with that one. OK.

ALEX (as GUY)

I want to say Harin...gay? Haringay, Haringay, yes. Hi!

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Right, um, can you gag her a moment, I'm going to be honest I can't stand the Byrons.

ALEX (as GUY)

Me neither!

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Just, just please.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

You're the one with the handkerchief, mate.

BRYN (as HAMID)

Fine. I reluctantly, and very gently and carefully, without any aggression, place the handkerchief in her mouth.

ALEX

Sure. She clearly appreciates the effort. Haringay's just-

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Yeah, so I'm gonna be honest. The entirety of London finding out that the person who killed all those people is here, on top of the fact that, well I mean honestly, anyone who can put two and two together would you know, figure out that anyone who's bringing them back is probably bringing back, you know, the plans to the Simulacrum.

BRYN (as HAMID)

Well the thing is...

BEN (as ZOLF)

Funny you should mention that-

BRYN (as HAMID)

It appears this young lady was double-crossed by one of her associates who then scarpered with the blueprints.

ALEX

He looks at her, she gives a sort of **(imitates helpless noise)** shrug.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Like genuinely? Really?

BEN (as ZOLF)

Name of Jeremy. Is the chap who ran.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Well you say that's the name, we thought this one was called "Guy".

BEN (as ZOLF)

Alright fair enough, well the name that the gang gave-

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Guy?

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Oh yeah, right?

ALEX

Haringay just starts laughing.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

(laughs) It's Fawkes innit?

ALEX

Again the woman just kind of goes: (shrugs helplessly)

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Oh very, very nice. If it's any consolation I've actually been looking for a Guy Fawkes. Genuinely I'd assumed it was a terrible pseudonym (again the shrug)

but you know, they've been doing a lot of, a lot of recruiting downstairs haven't they? (Again, the shrug.) Give me something other than a shrug, a nod? (whisper) Ohh, I hate Byrons so very much.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Well you can ungag her, I don't know what else she can give you.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Oh, I just don't like them. Anyway, yeah, I'm sorry for the slight bit of cloak and dagger, but honestly I've had to make sure that there's a few officers ready, you know, in case anyone or tries it on or, I'm gonna be honest, you know you brought quite a crowd with you?

LYDIA (as SASHA)

What? No?

BEN (as ZOLF)

Yeah well we, you know.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Everywhere I go Sergeant Haringay, I bring a crowd! Everybody-

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

I'm starting to notice that.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Just wants to look at me!

BEN (as ZOLF)

I think this is a - the thing is Sergeant is, I mean obviously it attracted attention as we came here, but there's no reason for people to connect this person or even the supposed person we were bringing with us to the bombing incident, I mean it shouldn't necessarily draw that much of a - would it?

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Yeah, like how would they know?

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

The walls have ears... Honestly.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

(jumps and starts theatrically) Argh! And he looks round the wall.

(Group laughter)

BEN (as ZOLF)

No, no, no. He means the Policemen like to gossip.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Oh!

LYDIA (as SASHA)

It's a metaphor, mate.

JAMES

Bertie opens the door to the rest of the Police station.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

DON'T!

JAMES

Closes the door again.

(Group laughter)

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

(Dryly) Thanks for that Bertie...

(Helpless group laughter)

ALEX

Anyway. That was a creeper.

JAMES

Sorry! Sorry!

(Group laughter)

JAMES

I enjoyed that one.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Well anyway. I'm gonna be honest, I'm not gonna be interrogating her in here, that's hardly procedure. But rest assured, we're not gonna be doing any harm or anything. Any of the others, was it her alone, really?

LYDIA (as SASHA)

You should know, like, Barret knows. He er, he-

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Right.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

He outnumbered us and he captured us and then he sent us - sent us on our way.

BRYN (as HAMID)

He pointed us in the right direction, I think he, he wasn't a big fan of this organisation.

ALEX

He just turns straight to Sasha:

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Anyone missing anything?

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Er... well, I mean.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

You know, pens, that kind of thing.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Well everyone's - in fact we've picked up a little addition. I look at Hamid.

BEN (as ZOLF)

I also look at Hamid.

ALEX

Everyone looks at Hamid!

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Bertie looks at the door...

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Still keeping an eye out for those-

JAMES

Yeah, just in case!

ALEX

-pesky, pesky ears gossiping!

JAMES

Gossiping Police ears!

LYDIA (as SASHA)

I don't know if we should talk about this in private, but er, yeah, he knew what we were doing. He sent us there.

BEN (as ZOLF)

He helped us.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

It's not like that with him.

BRYN (as HAMID)

I know.

BEN (as ZOLF)

That is another problem for another time, I think, we've got someone here we need to deal with.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

What I don't know can't hurt me. (Turns to Sasha again.) Or can it?

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Well...

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Imminently?

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Not that I know of. It's as likely to hurt us.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Well there's other things afoot. Right, well I'm gonna be honest, this is gonna have to go to a, you know, go through standard procedures, interrogation, trial etc.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

What?! If she's as posh as they say, nothing happens to rich people at trials.

BRYN (as HAMID)

I think it will this time, given who was involved.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Well if it's any consolation, Byron put out a pretty significant reward. For the person (he slowly turns to look at the woman) for the person who organised the bombing.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Ooh!

BEN (as ZOLF)

Well if you wouldn't mind Sergeant if you would get a photo taken so we can take that to Byron as proof, he probably won't believe if we kind of turn up saying: "Oh it was your sister by the way."

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Oh don't worry, I'm fairly that about everyone in the city's gonna know it's Byron's sister by the end of the day.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Oh right.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Poor Byron, good old Byron! (And then Bertie leans into Byron's sister's ear.)
Lovely, lovely Byron, he's my favourite Byron, he's just brilliant, he's totally great, (laughs exaggeratedly). Ha ha ha ha ha!

ALEX

(laughs)

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Even Sasha begins to look with some sympathy at...

BRYN (as HAMID)

I make eye contact and sort of just give a slightly downhearted shrug.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Well it seems only fair that I believe the people who found the person ought to be getting, you know, the reward. How does 2,000 sound.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Each? Lovely! Superb, thank you, excellent.

ALEX

He turns, and just dead in the eye with Bertie.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Yeah.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Brilliant! Good. Excellent. Very welcome, lovely.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

2,000... I am just, I don't think I've had that kind...

BEN (as ZOLF)

So how big was the reward that Byron put out?

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

It was the 10, don't worry.

BRYN (as HAMID)

There are four of us.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Of course. The long arm of the law has had an instrumental...I can do you nine. As it is I dipped into the pension to pay you last time Zolf, come on.

BEN (as ZOLF)

We'll say nine. You can reinvest that thousand back into the pension fund.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Right. OK. Yeah I'll do.

ALEX

Holds out his hand to Zolf, they shake.

BEN

Handshake. Cool.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

So that's like 2,000 plus a bit...

BEN (as ZOLF)

That is 2,000 plus a bit. That's 2,250.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Wow. Right.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Right. In which case, anyone got anything else to share before we -

ALEX

She sort of leans and kind of looks slightly beseechingly at Hamid, not like begging or anything just a... anything you can do, or-?

BRYN (as HAMID)

Perhaps we should give her a chance to share a little more information with us and you know, if she's cooperative maybe she'll have a slightly lighter sentence, I think might be able to...

BEN (as ZOLF)

Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa!

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Whoa!

BEN (as ZOLF)

Hang on a minute Hamid. How many people did she blow up?

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Including me!

ALEX

Er, I believe that was 17 in total plus 24 who were injured. A couple of those'll never walk.

BEN (as ZOLF)

But apparently - apparently back down there I was the monstrous one?

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Zolf, in fairness Hamid might have a point, we might have to take it down from what, 60 life sentences to maybe 59. I mean you have to reward good behaviour, that's Police procedure.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Well I was assuming she'd be in line for execution, Sergeant.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Well. As much as I'd like that I fear that the lords and ladies might get a little bit uppity if the Police start deciding which of the lords and ladies get to die.

BEN (as ZOLF)

(sighs in frustration) Told you.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Just let us know where Jeremy might have gone to ground.

BRYN (as HAMID)

Well we should have a full name and a description and maybe she could even provide a drawing or something of that kind?

ALEX

He reaches down and he pulls the hanky out from her mouth.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Well? Time to share.

ALEX (as GUY)

Oh goodness me. I have no idea who this Jeremy was. I had the plan stolen in the day and then you all came and, well, blew everything up. Admittedly I was sort of asking for that. Not quite so early, but that's fine.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

If you didn't know who he was, how did some guards that were like, that you had just employed there for like a few days know him so well? This makes no sense. Just don't waste our time.

ALEX (as GUY)

Jeremy was the first to join. Of course you don't ask for names because honestly, who cares? Who cares about a name?

ALEX

Turns to Bertie.

ALEX (as GUY)

Oh right, yes.

BEN (as ZOLF)

No, who cares about a name - people who might think that they're hiring criminals who might double-cross them. But hey...

ALEX (as GUY)

I was bombing! Do you really think that I - oh yes, can I have your date of birth and your home address and how about-

BEN (as ZOLF)

Didn't gather any surreptitious information about them at all? No? Or did we just go on trust?

ALEX (as GUY)

Let's put it this way. Everyone earned their place to be there, OK? Lots of gunpowder, lots of weapons, lots of people, don't all appear at the same time.

BRYN (as HAMID)

How about a detailed physical description?

ALEX (as GUY)

OK, right, that's fair. He was about 6'4", he was built with it. Quite useful. He was used to do any of the dirty work, he got us a lot of equipment though. Good with um, good with mechanisms. Look I didn't know the guy's name, why would I? He turned up, he was offering to help me I've have you know, I didn't go searching for him, and I-

BEN (as ZOLF)

Ooh.

ALEX (as GUY)

And I, you know, I found out that not many people knew who he was at all to be honest, and frankly that's what I needed.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Did this Jeremy have an accent at all?

ALEX (as GUY)

Er I suppose. I mean, all cockneys really sound alike to me.

BEN (as ZOLF)

She sounds like the kind of person who just files anyone who's not her under "common".

ALEX (as GUY)

Excuse me, I would NEVER file everyone under the same brush. I'll have you know that that kind of thing gets a lot of people in a lot of trouble, OK? People are individuals. Yes, I can't tell the difference between a cockney accent but that doesn't mean that I just lump everyone in together.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Explosions are not a very um...

JAMES (as BERTIE) and BRYN (as HAMID)

Discriminating?

BEN (as ZOLF)

Yeah.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Even I got that one.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Way of killing people.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

(laughs)

ALEX

Haringay leans in, just kind of quietly.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

When did he leave?

ALEX (as GUY)

Oh I don't know. 12 hours ago? Honestly, I'm astonished that you guys missed him.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Where was he going?

ALEX (as GUY)

Pffft! (appears to shrug) I don't know. Who has the most money in the country right now? Or better yet, who has the most money in the world, because I'm pretty certain if I had the plans that was where I was going to go. Honestly (sighs). What can I tell you? I don't know. He's gone. He took the plans, and the only thing that he had was that notebook thing, I mean honestly it was a complete waste of time, so I don't know why I bother.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Fine. You're obviously of no more use to us. Sergeant, if you do want this to all just go away, you can just hand her over to me and I'll deal with her.

ALEX

He looks, they have a sort of, a moment of consideration. And I'm gonna take a break there and we'll come back in a couple of minutes.

-[BREAK]-

ALEX

And welcome back! So Haringay is sharing that moment with Zolf.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

I respect you, Zolf. But you know I can't do that. You know I can't do that.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Who else knows?

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Most of London and almost everyone in the office probably by this point.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Fair enough!

BRYN (as HAMID)

She deserves to die, Sergeant. She killed all those people and she shows-

BRYN

I look really sad at this point.

BRYN (as HAMID)

She's showing almost no remorse at all.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

I wouldn't say almost no.

ALEX (as GUY)

Er no, no, no. That is not true. I will regret to the day I die that my brother made it out.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

There we go.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Who paid you?

ALEX (as GUY)

(laughs) No one. If I'd been paid I'd be gone, dear. If I'd have been paid I'd have probably been out somewhere, probably South America. They need a lot of help. Or I mean Italy, Italy's had a lot of trouble, probably there.

BEN (as ZOLF)

If you get out of this, I would move far, far away, because if I find you again I've got a bucket and a spell with your name on it.

ALEX (as GUY)

I really don't know what that means.

(Group laughter)

BEN (as ZOLF)

I'm gonna drown you in a bucket!

ALEX (as GUY)

Oh right, OK, thank you!

(Group laughter)

ALEX (as GUY)

Well this is, this is fun.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Good threat but you will need the- [obscured by laughter 28:17].

(Group laughter)

ALEX (as GUY)

Well I-

LYDIA (as SASHA)

I find a dagger works really well, just no explanation.

ALEX (as GUY)

I am looking forward to, er, living the rest of my life in a box, so if we can move this along?

BEN (as ZOLF)

Yeah, good luck with that.

ALEX

Haringay just looks openly disgusted at her and just re-gags her again.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Right. Let's not play games. I'm assuming there was a notebook.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Yep!

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Yep.

BEN (as ZOLF)

We've got it. Do you have the budget for us to continue pursuing this on your dime?

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

May I have a look at it?

BEN

I get it out, it seems to be Edison's diary, there's some magical bits but it's very confused and complicated. I show it to him, yeah.

ALEX

He starts holding it, and starts looking through.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Well it ain't Edison's diary, I can tell you that. It's the wrong handwriting.

ALEX

Starts flicking through.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

So whose is it?

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

I don't know. This is actually Simulacrum stuff innit?

BEN (as ZOLF)

Yeah.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Mm hm.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Edison said that when we were at the auction it was his idea.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Yeah, he did...

JAMES (as BERTIE)

You don't mean he might have fibbed!

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Goodness me. (Dryly) Someone high up in the realm fibbing, what will they say next?

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Well I'm outraged!

ALEX

He's flicking through the book.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Does it mean anything to anyone, I'm gonna be honest I don't have the skills for...

BRYN (as HAMID)

Maybe some of it? It's hard to be sure, I haven't had a chance to study it properly.

ALEX

Holds up the bit with the metal.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Anyone?

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Well it's the same as the Simulacrum's but-

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Oh!

LYDIA (as SASHA)

It's a magical type thing.

ALEX

He takes a moment and goes check on it in evidence. Goes to the end.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Seed, anyone?

BEN (as ZOLF)

No.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

No idea. We could plant it?

BEN (as ZOLF)

Tell you what, you leave the book with us, we'll pursue some stuff in the er, from there. You can, we'll let you know if there's anything that would pertain to the trial, but until you have a lead on Jeremy I don't think you have much use for our services any more.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

It's too big. It's too big for me to hand you this back. But you know what I can tell you? Just about every single person who has any money whatsoever is gonna be knocking on my door tomorrow, OK? And what I have here is the beginnings of how to make another one of these things, presumably. I don't know what it is. Places, people. If I wanted to start again and I had the plans I assume I'd follow this.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

We'll give it to us and we'll keep it out of their hands.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Make you the same offer. Give it to me and I can make it all go away.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

You know I can't do that.

BEN (as ZOLF)

The notebook, no one knows is in this room apart from her.

ALEX

He literally, he just turns and looks at her.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

I can't magic her away.

BEN (as ZOLF)

I can.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

(laughs)

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

I'm not playing this game, Zolf.

ALEX

He reaches across, puts the book in a little safe, locks it again.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Aww! (disappointed)

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Look, come back tomorrow, all right? I'll guarantee you that a lot of people are gonna be knocking on my door and I guarantee you that at the very least one of them will pay you. If I cannot swing it, you know who I want to be searching for this? You guys. You know who I want to be paying you? Me. And not because I need the cash, let's put it that way. Because right now, it's not your fault but nonetheless I have someone running around with the plans to make a thing that can make more of itself, who could literally be anywhere. You'll back me up, how hard is it to get out of Other London if you know what you're doing?

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Oh not, not at all. I mean like yeah, I mean yeah, maybe like 20 minutes and you'd need a fishing hook and about-

(Group laughter)

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Right, yeah.

ALEX

He just cuts across!

BEN (as ZOLF)

We'll be back tomorrow for some more work then.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Right. Well look, before you go.

ALEX

Goes back into the safe. HUUUUUUUGE sack. Then in front of you, sort of starts to count out a thousand - I should point out, it's in white golds. So each white gold is, you know, a thousand.

BEN

Yep.

ALEX

To spell out for listeners, sorry, I get very, very irritated that you deal in thousands of gold in a world where each coin is heavy and the size of your, like, open palm, that seems ridiculous to me. So what I tend to say is that 1,000 gold is the equivalent to 1 white gold, it just allows people to actually carry currency and things like that.

JAMES

Yep.

ALEX

So he drops the bag, pulls out what is a smaller sack, drops that. Plucks out 1 white gold. Puts it back into the larger sack. Sack in the safe, closes the safe.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Open and count?

ALEX

You count nine, would you like to count again?

(Group laughter)

BEN

Be stupid not to look! I pop it in my backpack.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

That's only nine coins, like how are we-

BEN (as ZOLF)

I wouldn't worry about that Sasha. We'll go to a bank, get it changed up.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Right.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Just give me a night. Give me a night.

BEN (as ZOLF)

All right. Fine, we'll be back tomorrow.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Tell you what.

ALEX

He reaches into his own pocket and plucks out 4 gold and dumps them on the table and goes:

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Have a drink, right? Chill out, relax for once. You smell terrible.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

No, YOU smell terrible.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Thank you Bertie.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Oh hang on, that was an observation, I...

BRYN (as HAMID)

Keep that, we've been paid enough.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Right?

LYDIA

Sasha frowns at Zolf.

ALEX

He pockets it again.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Then in the nicest way possible, let me do my job Zolf.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Right. Yeah, fine. We'll see you tomorrow.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

He opens and as he does so he sort of leans out into the office and yells for two people.

BEN

Just before he's about to do that-

ALEX

Uh-huh?

BEN (as ZOLF)

Just one thing.

BEN

And um, just haymaker the woman in the chair.

LYDIA

Oh!

ALEX

He sees what you're going to do and proceeds to lean out of the door early so that he doesn't see it.

BEN

OK, yep.

ALEX

She's (clicks fingers) out like a light. He calls for a couple more guards, leans back in and goes...

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Must have been very tired mustn't she?

BEN (as ZOLF)

Fell over!

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Long day!

BEN (as ZOLF)

Yep.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Right, as I'm still near her I would go through her pockets.

ALEX

He'll quietly just be like...

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

(warning look)

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Oh fine. I should have done it earlier! Argh!

ALEX

Oh yeah, you should have. Oh you could have got so many delicious things!

LYDIA

Oh!

ALEX

Like 15 gold brooches per arm and stuff like that.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Byron's latest poems and some proofs, you know.

LYDIA

Oh...

JAMES

Mostly just dirty limericks.

(Group laughter)

JAMES

He's really gone downhill recently.

ALEX

Anyway, yeah, he gestures for you to basically get out the office.

BEN (as ZOLF)

I will leave.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

She, she was unconscious and everything...

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

I'd, er, take the back entrance if I was you.

ALEX

You can see from here down the corridor to a crowd of people who are just pushed up against the glass, already at the front door.

BEN

[unclear 34:35]

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Yep.

ALEX

The two guards go in and he closes the door.

BRYN (as HAMID)

You're all welcome back at my apartment again.

BEN (as ZOLF)

It would be private at least, very.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Oh excellent, all back to Hamid's then.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Very kind.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Right...

ALEX

(laughs) Yeah, so skipping ahead, you head out the back entrance, there's a couple more enterprising people there with notepads who sort of accost you.

BEN (as ZOLF)

No comment.

ALEX

(laughs)

LYDIA (as SASHA)

What he said.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Well lots of comments! Well let me tell you, young gentlemen of the press,
well it was -

BEN (as ZOLF)

Bertie.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

-a great adventure, I-

BEN (as ZOLF)

Bertie!

JAMES (as BERTIE)

I sallied forth with my merry band of assistants and-

BEN (as ZOLF)

Don't, don't don't don't!

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Deep into the heart of-

BEN (as ZOLF)

BERTIE!

ALEX

We'll skip ahead and just tell me what bits everyone insists that he doesn't share.

BRYN

I'm going to smoothly insert myself into the conversation to say something like: "We obviously cannot reveal any details that might prejudice the trial."

ALEX

Oh sure.

BRYN

To cover us in a legal sense.

ALEX

So what we'll say is that whilst Sasha and Zolf are-

LYDIA

Panicking in my case, like the idea of someone talking about Other London st- because I'm still the sort of person that just doesn't share things and so the idea of you talking about Barret's reign in Upper London.

ALEX

(laughs)

LYDIA

Makes me feel physically ill, even though I have no loyalty to him anymore, just like physically ill!

BRYN

I'm going to make sure everyone knows that the perpetrators have been apprehended and we were responsible.

ALEX

Sure.

BRYN

But I'm gonna gloss over the details.

ALEX

I could have RP-d this, it would have taken ages. So I'll just say that whilst Hamid desperately runs damage control, the two of you bodily drag Bertie-

BEN

We're trying to drag Bertie!

BRYN

I play up Bertie's amazingness-

ALEX

Sure, sure.

BRYN

Like I'm happy for him to be lauded in the process and I would help with that role-

ALEX

I just like the idea of someone pulling Bertie and poking his head around going:
"TELL THEM ABOUT THE THING WITH THE...!"

(Group laughter)

JAMES

Yes!

JAMES (as BERTIE)

It was VERY GRAND!

LYDIA

I'm guessing that most of the things that you'll notice is that -

LYDIA (imitating BERTIE)

And then I walked around a corner, there were some people and my armour got slightly dented!

(Group laughter)

ALEX (imitating BERTIE)

That was here, and it was over here and then the whole of this and it went wrong!

LYDIA (imitating BERTIE)

There was a lovely man who gave me some whiskey. And that's all I remember.

(Group laughter)

BRYN (as HAMID)

I'm going-

JAMES (as BERTIE)

And see this eyebrow? That really hurt!

BRYN

I'm going to make sure they don't hear Sasha's name.

ALEX

That's fine.

BRYN

In fact I'm gonna make it seem like there was a team of three of us, you know if that comes up later, I'm gonna say to Sasha: "I thought you would want to-"

ALEX

Well don't play out the conversation til it happens.

BRYN

Well yeah.

BEN

God, you're our PR man!

LYDIA

Sort of his role, yeah!

BEN

That's true, that's true.

ALEX

He quite honestly is, like that's his role.

JAMES

Yes, yep.

ALEX

You skip ahead to: you guys made it back to-

BRYN

In character, I tell a reporter the story of the last four sessions that you just listened to!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

And you all make it back to Hamid's, I'm gonna give you a bit of decompress time and then we'll pick up again.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Actually I want to make a stop off at a bank to change up these nine coins of white gold which are super-easy to steal.

ALEX

They are. Super, super easy to steal.

BRYN

I mean I carry nearly 100 gold on me at all times so I'll just-

BEN

Not 9,000!

BRYN

I'll certainly deposit my share in one of my accounts.

BEN

Oh, and I will explain to Sasha what white gold is.

LYDIA

Yep.

ALEX

We'll stop off outside a bank which has "Tahans of Cairo" across the top.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Right. Wait, do I remember that name from somewhere?

JAMES (as BERTIE)

This one, over here.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

You told me it - what?

BEN (as ZOLF)

No, it's his-

BRYN (as HAMID)

It's my - my surname.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

You own a bank?!

BRYN (as HAMID)

Not me, I mean my dad.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Why are you even here? (laughs)

BEN (as ZOLF)

It also explains why Barret knowing his father is so concerning.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Oh what? Like the thing is-

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

I said the "Like, why are you even here" as a bit of a, as just a laugh and walk off, just with no conception of the fact that that might have a deeper meaning.

JAMES

Yeah.

ALEX

And you're worried, you're worried, you were always worrying, oh Charisma 8, I mean I'm not - how would one play that?

(Group laughter)

LYDIA (as SASHA)

(angst-laden tone) Why are you even here mate? And then walk off...

BEN

I just look troubled.

ALEX

Yep.

JAMES

Has the money been divvied up at this point?

BEN

Er, I will divvy the money up.

JAMES

OK, cool.

BEN

When we're in the bank, because that's quite a safe place to divvy it out.

ALEX

Yeah, yeah, yeah. They give you a counting room. You have a little side counting room.

BEN

It's a very quick count, there, there, there, there, there.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

To spell out, they don't actually recognise Hamid, at all.

BEN

No, I mean why would they?

BRYN

That's not a surprise.

ALEX

No it's just someone might bring it up.

LYDIA

They're clerks.

ALEX

You have, you get given a private counting room and get given the time, all the time that you need.

JAMES

I'm gonna place it in an account just because-

LYDIA

I'm gonna-

ALEX

Yeah go for it, your family already has an account so it's not exactly a huge effort to insert it into there.

JAMES

Yep.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

I'm gonna... I can't give them my name.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Why don't you keep it in my account then? I'll open one-

LYDIA

I look at him like he's the maddest person that I've ever seen.

BRYN (as HAMID)

You can open an anonymous account, it's a bit irregular but it does happen.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

You could make up a name, you could be Lady McLady.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Right. It's nice to know I've got so many defining features to you!

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Yes!

(Group laughter)

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Lady Mc- I'll have an anonymous one thanks!

JAMES (as BERTIE)

SMALL Lady McLady.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Thank you for the offer Zolf.

BEN (as ZOLF)

That's all right.

ALEX

Right, as fun as discussing finances is-

(Group laughter)

ALEX

We'll say Bertie's money goes into his family's account, Zolf's goes into his, Hamid's goes into presumably his own account.

BRYN (as HAMID)

Yep.

ALEX

And Sasha gets-

BRYN (as HAMID)

And - and at that point of course I do have to give them my name and everyone instantly starts being three times as courteous to me!

ALEX

Very much so, and insists, they INSIST that there is no charge for your friends' deposit box, and yeah you get shown into a deposit room and get given one, and you get given a key that is almost identical in design to the one in the notebook that you saw.

LYDIA

I say this to Hamid:

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Look, right, and I know a LOT about locks.

ALEX

Ohhh yeah.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

So if I say this is a similar key, it means it's made in the same fricken factory, you know I'm like-

ALEX

(laughs)

BRYN (as HAMID)

I mean it could be any safety deposit box in any bank, but if it's made in the same place maybe it means it's a Tahan Bank.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Right, I look at the - how, I mean I don't wanna jump the thing but I would know exactly-

ALEX

No I'm gonna put this as a Knowledge (Appraise), put it as a Knowledge (Appraise) and that'll be how specific you can be about it.

LYDIA

(ROLL) Oh, a 3.

ALEX

I'm kind of fudging "Appraise" a little bit.

LYDIA

I guess I'm a bit blinded by all the money, I only rolled 3.

BRYN

(laughs)

ALEX

What's your modifier though?

LYDIA

Oh, er 8. So 11. I can do numbers.

ALEX

It's certainly been made by the same place.

LYDIA

Right.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Well I don't know how generic safety deposit boxes are but I would-

BRYN (as HAMID)

Unfortunately they're pretty generic but-

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Oh.

BRYN (as HAMID)

I mean maybe it might help us. I mean we'll have to look into, there'll be a number printed on it.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

They're good keys you know.

BEN (as ZOLF)

We can have a think about it. Anyway - I need a shower.

ALEX

Sure. Let's do a quick cut to Hamid's and get you guys-

BRYN

Where I pour everyone a large drink.

BEN

I drink the large drink.

LYDIA

I drink it and then I cross my eyes slightly at the strange taste, I'm like - this is not just rum...

ALEX

The dog which has still been sort of padding along just **(grumbles gently in "dog")**

JAMES

I pour the glass down into some sort of bowl for the dog and then I take the bottle that Hamid poured it from and drink that.

ALEX

(laughs) And yeah, you all proceed to chill out, relax and the dog slowly falls over.

LYDIA

Oh, I-

JAMES

Zolf has a shower by conjuring water-

(Group laughter)

BEN

There we go, lovely!

LYDIA

I am taking the flame, fire flask apart and putting back together again and looking at it-

ALEX

Having a bit of a tinker.

LYDIA

I'm having a bit of a tinker just quietly in a corner because I like that more than people.

(Group laughter)

BEN

Glance over your shoulder and points out:

BEN (as ZOLF)

Are you sure you wanna be doing that in er-

LYDIA (as SASHA)

It's perfectly safe!

ALEX

A brief small throw out of flame, but it's under control.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

It's fine! You can make water, right?

ALEX

We'll let you guys go to sleep on that moment!

JAMES

(chuckles)

ALEX

OK. You get a decent night's rest.

BEN

Yep.

BRYN

Yay, hit points and spells!

JAMES

Yep, yeah.

ALEX

Oh, apart from er, Hamid, can you give me a Will save?

BRYN

(ROLL) 13. What's that, er-

ALEX

Outside of session we're gonna go into what the problem is, but nonetheless Hamid has a bit of a poor night. He's not fatigued, he doesn't look great. He doesn't look great. He's all right.

BRYN

Do I recover hit points and spells?

ALEX

Yeah, you recover as normal.

BRYN

Then that's fine!

(Group laughter)

JAMES

Nothing else really matters!

ALEX

Certainly in the immediate future there are no mechanical ramifications for your poor night's sleep.

BRYN

So no ramifications...

ALEX

No immediate ramifications.

JAMES

So in terms of restoring hit points, what do I get back?

BRYN

Your level.

JAMES

Oh right.

LYDIA

You're back to what you were at because you haven't - you didn't lose any did you?

JAMES

No that's three hit points -

ALEX

He got hit by some detritus and then was fine.

LYDIA

Oh, some detritus eh?

JAMES

Yeah!

LYDIA

What was that like?

BEN

He was down to 20 hit points.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

So it was really tough, I was - it ached, it was like sore!

BEN

A full 70% more than I start with!

ALEX

And now we're bantering out of character...

JAMES (as BERTIE)

If you can imagine having a Chinese burn...

LYDIA (as SASHA)

When I -

ALEX

Let's get you guys back in character, right!

LYDIA

So Sasha comes out of the bathroom and is just sort of rubbing at this new sort of burn that's running up her neck like -

LYDIA (as SASHA)

You couldn't... oh, I mean, I just thought healers could, you know, fix this stuff.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Er, to a certain extent. We can only augment what the body can do. Anyway, it's only superficial.

ALEX

Slightly out of character briefly, there is a thing, they're really high level Cleric spells which can do things like leave no trace, can cure you of like anything, literally anything, I mean they can bring you back from the dead, they can cure that, but for a standard sort of "I can fix you up" it is just not the same.

BEN

For a level 2 Cleric...

ALEX

Probably not!

LYDIA

Yep.

BEN (as ZOLF)

So look, bearing in mind if I can sort that out - do you think I'd have a peg leg?

Not choice, I can't say.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

What?

BEN (as ZOLF)

It wasn't a design choice.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

I dunno. Like I dunno if you can regrow legs just 'cos you can get me un-burned. (shouts) I don't know how magic works all right?

BEN (as ZOLF)

Be the same kind of principle.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Weird, weird magic.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Zolf, my neck's a bit stiff...

ALEX

(laughs)

BEN (as ZOLF)

Stretch!

(Group laughter)

JAMES (as BERTIE)

(exaggerated stretching noise)

BEN (as ZOLF)

Right anyway, we need to get to Haringay.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Is the dog all right?

LYDIA

I point out that the dog is limping.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Isn't that your department?

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Brutor's limping, he's very sad.

ALEX (as BRUTOR)

(whines and grumbles)

BEN (as ZOLF)

Take him to a vet?

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Come on Zolf. Look at his little face. Look at his little face!

BEN (as ZOLF)

I just...

JAMES

Bertie picks up Brutor-

ALEX

You could do a standard Heal check however I will NOT say you have to. It is very much up to you.

JAMES

Brutor, Bertie-

BEN (as ZOLF)

I'll take a look and make sure it's not a problem, however I would say my spells I will be keeping to save our lives, not stop a dog from limping.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Look at his widdle face. Look at his widdle face!

ALEX (as BRUTOR)

(growls)

BEN (as ZOLF)

I am looking at his widdle face.

JAMES

Holds Brutor up in Zolf's face and just almost like pulls back his eyelids so he looks extra-cute. Huge eyes.

BEN

(ROLL) 25!

LYDIA

But then that reveals the red sort of rims of-

ALEX

25. Um - there was a small piece of rubble in the paw.

LYDIA

Aw!

ALEX

You remove it and clear there's no real damage, and nonetheless the dog still sort of gives a faint limp and he's like -

ALEX (as BRUTOR)

(whining and grumbling)

ALEX

Playing it up a bit.

BEN (as ZOLF)

At that point he's putting it on, I've done all I can thank you very much.

BRYN

Those looking closely might notice I still have a rather nasty cut from the wound I took. I'm being very careful to, not to let Zolf see it if I can.

ALEX

Yep. Sure. Sure, sure.

BEN

I wouldn't be looking for it.

ALEX

No, might not mention it.

BRYN

Well exactly. I mean it's not - like it's not obvious because, but, yeah. I mean you might notice.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Mm hm. Sure. So let's get to Haringay's, see if we've got any more work for us before the er - well I say the money dries up, we're doing quite well right now but you can always use more.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Yeah I mean we could even - we could go, we could go shopping!

BRYN

(laughs)

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Like I could get special daggers. Like more daggers but better.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Definitely could do!

BRYN (as HAMID)

I mean, I want to know if we can get that notebook back and follow, follow the clues.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Yeah, let's get down there so we can get it.

BRYN (as HAMID)

Who really did the Simulacrum? That's so strange.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Let's walk and talk.

BRYN

OK.

ALEX

OK so yeah, skipping ahead. You head through and there is still a significant crowd outside of the station and in fact even if you head round to the back there's still a small crowd but there are some guards deliberately keeping them at bay and you guys are let through without incident.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Aww, I thought that I'd get to use my crowd dodger bonus!

ALEX

I'll tell you what, you get to do a brief tutorial session on the others on how to deal with crowds on the way.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Hello everyone! No autographs, stand back! Stand back! It's really hard to sign things in my massive amazing armour.

ALEX

Actually, here's one thing I did forget. Give me a Perception roll all of you.

BEN

(ROLL) Ha! Nat 20.

ALEX

Nat 20.

LYDIA

(ROLL) 18 plus...

JAMES

(ROLL) Natural 1, minus 1.

LYDIA

(laughs)

ALEX

Oh this is gonna be gorgeous! So-

BRYN

(ROLL) 17.

LYDIA

Mine's 25.

ALEX

OK, you know what, everyone as you're walking past you look at a newspaper. And on the newspaper there is a depiction of an Adonis of a knight, bright, shining armour, a huge gleaming shield, sword waving over his hand, and it just says, what is it: "The Hero of Other London et al".

(Group laughter)

BRYN (as HAMID)

Hey, hey, hey, I made sure my name was in there too, I was doing the PR!

ALEX

If any of you choose to pick it up you can, but certainly it's titled as "The Hero of London".

LYDIA

I - can I try and, I mean I know I've got money now but out of habit I nick one.

ALEX

I'm not even gonna get you to do a roll, it's fine. You can just-

LYDIA

I have quite high-

ALEX

Yeah, you quickly grab one. Blah blah blah blah blah, Hamid, son of the noble Tahans, blah blah blah blah...

BRYN (as HAMID)

It'd be more stuff about my dad

ALEX

It's - honestly it's-

BRYN (as HAMID)

and - actually both my parents because my mum's very well-off as well.

ALEX

Yeah, it's a really fluffy article, it's really sort of: "And who would have thought from such a family that such a, a gruelling hero of the lower classes... blah blah blah" And then it goes onto: "and of course then there's Sir Bertrand "Bertie" MacGuffingham of old-"

JAMES

And they'll use the link that we were at university together because that will become-

ALEX

"These noble student friends pursuing their friendship through all of the odds and adversary, who would have thought blah blah blah" and then it goes into how they tackled all of the noble brigands that were loitering in Other London and blah blah blah and heroism, feats, derring-do, occasionally with some help but mainly...

(Group laughter)

ALEX

And then also there's very clearly a plug for Zolf's mercenary company just as an official sort of: "Currently under the employ (although one wonders for how long before they strike out on their own)" blah blah blah. It's a very, very fluffy piece, there's no real content so much as they're just going: oh yeah I can spin this as a Penny Dreadful without the dreadful.

JAMES

Bertie picks up the newspaper. Doesn't even notice the front page article, just opens it and goes "Hmm...."

(Group laughter)

ALEX

"Dog Carer Weekly". Right!

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Oh the cricket's on! Excellent

(Group laughter)

JAMES

Just holds the newspaper out and everybody else is looking at the front of it just like reading it.

ALEX

Well there's never anything interesting on the front page!

JAMES (as BERTIE)

God what nuisance, what absolute nonsense, well (grumbles)...

JAMES

And just crumples it all up.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Er before you, er - Bertie.

BEN

Closes the newspaper and shows him the front.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Gosh I'm handsome!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Anyway, we make it back into the Police station and yep, you guys make it through the crowds and are shown into Haringay's office. Door opens, the door closes. It's very neat, the desk's where it should be, lots of ordered paperwork, and sat in one of the chairs holding a brandy you see a woman wearing epaulettes or something, she is currently facing Haringay.

LYDIA

A different woman than the one before, right?

ALEX

Er yeah, not the same woman.

BEN

I hope so yeah, I was going to be very angry!

ALEX

Not at all. Not at all.

JAMES

So is it like military epaulettes or-?

ALEX

Very much military epaulettes.

JAMES

OK, cool.

ALEX

Haringay gives a very quick warning kind of head-tilt to Zolf - behave yourself!

BEN (as ZOLF)

Yep.

ALEX

And yeah, the woman stands. She's not massively tall, she's average height for a woman. Long, dark, straightened hair. Large epaulettes, a large number of medals and so on and Haringay before anyone can speak steps across and goes:

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Well obviously er I should, I should introduce you given what happened at the um, at Lord Edison's house. I'd like to introduce you to the er, new head of the meritocratic forces in this realm, this is er Lady Starling.

ALEX

She gives a brief nod.

ALEX (as LADY STARLING)

I understand that all of you have been instrumental of the recovery of the perpetrators of the Edison disaster?

BRYN (as HAMID)

We were happy to do our bit, your lady.

ALEX (as LADY STARLING)

Hm. Thank you very much.

BRYN (as HAMID)

It's a pleasure to make your acquaintance.

ALEX (as LADY STARLING)

And yourself. And I would just like to extend the warmest thanks of all the meritocrats who are within the area, you've done a great service for all of us.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Pleasure.

ALEX (as LADY STARLING)

Well, I believe we should have a bit of a chat.

ALEX

She gestures for you to come in. Haringay closes the door and offers her his seat, she sits behind the desk in his chair, he stands beside the safe, and without asking he pulls out and puts the notebook down. She goes:

ALEX (as LADY STARLING)

I'm given to understand that this is quite closely tied to the Simulacrum and the plans themselves have been stolen, it would seem.

BRYN (as HAMID)

That appears to be the case, your lady.

ALEX (as LADY STARLING)

Well. I would say that you've proven yourself more than capable of some investigative work and I'm given to understand that there's enough in here to certainly be getting on with.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Certainly is.

ALEX (as LADY STARLING)

Well it seems to me that we can help each other out. Your operation, Mr Zolf Smith isn't it?

BEN (as ZOLF)

Yes.

ALEX (as LADY STARLING)

Your operation Mr Smith of course an auspicious start, but I fear that maybe if you had some meritocratic support you might develop and grow further. It is our desire that we could perhaps pursue the information within this notebook

in the hopes of beginning the work of recreating the Simulacrum. I am afraid that with the plans gone other powers, there are the independents across in South America for instance, there are powers which are quite frankly dangerous, could very well be purchasing this right now. This could effectively be an unkillable army, spreading everywhere. Quite frankly we'd rather get there first. So we'd like to offer you a contract, significantly more lucrative than you've had before, we will wire information to the, actually we work through the Tahans, again your family do excellent work.

BRYN (as HAMID)

Thank you your ladyship.

ALEX (as LADY STARLING)

And we would ensure regular payments for yourselves.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Mm hm.

ALEX (as LADY STARLING)

Obviously we will have it on a rewards basis though and it would be very appreciated if you were able to pursue this matter and collect the information.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Mm hm.

ALEX (as LADY STARLING)

And if you encounter anyone else attempting to do so, because plans do not a machine make. One must secure lines of, of communication, of developmental tools, one must-

BRYN (as HAMID)

It seems that if someone wanted to build another Simulacrum they'd certainly need the information in this notebook.

ALEX (as LADY STARLING)

Very much so.

BRYN (as HAMID)

They might be pursuing the same lines of enquiry that we will.

ALEX (as LADY STARLING)

So if nothing else, whilst you are enquiring as to the nature of this notebook, I suspect that anyone attempting to build another will of course run into yourselves.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Yep.

ALEX (as LADY STARLING)

And you would receive the full support of the meritocratic forces should that be the case.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Good. We'll try to keep on the downlow as much as possible.

ALEX (as LADY STARLING)

Naturally. The main reason that we will be using an independent is we would rather not spread the information that we are seeking to recreate this. The more attention this receives the more people will be paying attention, the more people will be paying attention the more people will be trying to do the same kind of investigations.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Yep. Er - is there an advance?

ALEX (as LADY STARLING)

I believe I could certainly arrange an advance, I'll probably start with a small figure, say between the four of you perhaps 4,000. So certainly no more than that.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

That sounds a bit small!

ALEX (as LADY STARLING)

Are you all right?

LYDIA (as SASHA)

It just sounds too s- s- small.

ALEX (as LADY STARLING)

I understand of course, but the way that these matters works is it tends to be a reward-based system rather than a-

BRYN (as HAMID)

That will be enough for us to re-supply ourselves.

ALEX (as LADY STARLING)

Certainly. Naturally you will get lines of communication made available to you and we will certainly make sure you have some kind of transport available should you require it.

ALEX

Everyone give me a Sense Motive, actually.

BEN

(ROLL) 10.

LYDIA

(ROLL) Oh gosh, I've got 3.

BRYN

(ROLL) 7.

LYDIA

So mine's a 10.

JAMES

(ROLL) 2.

ALEX

Sure. So she doesn't seem to be lying, but it's very clear that she's being - she's not a naturally affable person and is very much being very polite because quite frankly it's a business transaction, and she just goes:

ALEX (as LADY STARLING)

I -

ALEX

Sort of false smile.

ALEX (as LADY STARLING)

I can't think of any team I would rather place upon this at this time.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Don't worry, we won't mess it up.

ALEX (as LADY STARLING)

(pauses) Yes. Well-

BRYN (as HAMID)

Thank you your ladyship, we'll of course pursue the matter with all due diligence and haste.

BRYN

I reach for the notebook.

ALEX (as LADY STARLING)

Hm. Thank you very much.

ALEX

She starts heading to the door and turns to Haringay.

ALEX (as LADY STARLING)

You'll arrange for her to be delivered?

ALEX

He just gives an eyeroll.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Yes.

ALEX

She closes the door and heads off.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Seems like you might be getting your wish after all Zolf, the military have been very interested in Her Ladyship.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Good! If you can put in a special request to say if she gets executed do it by drowning, that'd be lovely. Little favour to me, maybe.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

I'm not so sure about that but we'll see. Anyway. This is significantly above my pay grade at this point. I would say one thing - can I ask a favour, and I mean a favour?

BEN (as ZOLF)

You can ask.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

If you're gonna bring back something, information, things like that, that is gonna make my city unstable could you give me the common courtesy of letting me know before you hand it over to people who quite frankly consider London a blip?

LYDIA (as SASHA)

A - a what?

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

A blip. A small thing. A matter of no consequence in the global scheme of things.

LYDIA

My face is complete - like this is a concept, the idea of London not being the entire world, that for someone that has never left it.

ALEX

Sure.

LYDIA

Is just - I just, like I almost laugh at the complete nonsense of the idea.

BEN (as ZOLF)

I'll um, I'll keep that in mind. Don't worry.

BRYN (as HAMID)

Sergeant you've been just, you've been very er kind to us, thank you for your help, we wouldn't have got this far without you and we won't forget what we owe you.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Hm, thank you. Well it certainly wouldn't do you any harm, and next time it'll be Chief Constable rather than Sergeant.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Oh, congratulations.

BRYN (as HAMID)

Congratulations.

LYDIA (as SASHA)

Congrats.

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Very well done, very richly deserved.

ALEX

Well he - he reaches out and proceeds to try and shake the hands of every single one of you.

LYDIA

Mine is a genuine handshake, I have never, I've never encountered an operator of the law that has actually been vaguely sympathetic so it's quite a - like, yeah.

BEN

Big moment, Sasha making friends with a Policeman.

BRYN

Yeah!

JAMES

I hold Brutor up:

JAMES (as BERTIE)

Shake, shake! Shake!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Haringay actually humours you. He actually humours you.

(Group laughter)

BEN

Aw, good old Haringay.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Right, well, shame to see you go but you know, there's always a job for any of you here.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Yep, well we'll be back, mm, don't worry about that.

ALEX

Opens the door.

ALEX (as HARINGAY)

Don't be a stranger.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Thank you! See you later.

ALEX

OK.

BRYN (as HAMID)

Well first shopping and then maybe Paris.

BEN

I smile.

BEN (as ZOLF)

Thought you might like that bit.

ALEX

And I think we're gonna end there. So - congratulations. What we've just done is we've made it through a Prologue together!

ALL

(cheer enthusiastically)

BEN

None of us died!

ALL

(cheer enthusiastically)

LYDIA

I, I, I kind of did.

BEN

Well...

LYDIA

Temporarily!

ALEX

Only counts as death if the character sheet has to be torn up!

LYDIA

Unconscious then sorry!

ALEX

So yeah, thanks for listening to everyone who's been listening so far. I should mention at this point that actually thanks to listener support we've made onto the front page of iTunes, things like that.

LYDIA

Yay!

BEN

Woo!

ALEX

Which is crazy for a podcast that had barely been running a month at the time. So honestly thank you for everyone listening, we've got lots more episodes

planned out, an entire season beyond this one, this was just the prologue and yeah, I look forward to doing loads more for as long as I can.

LYDIA

Yay!

JAMES

Hooray!

BEN

Woo!

LYDIA

No, we're all really enthusiastic!

ALEX

Everyone's enthused, it's just incredibly hot and sweaty in our-

JAMES

It is very warm in this room.

ALEX

In our, quote-unquote "studio".

BRYN

Yeah. (laughs)

BEN

It is a sauna in here. We've got no clothes on and it's-, it's not bad for a podcast.

ALEX

It's always like that by the way...

JAMES

We've just been chasing each other and flicking each other with towels most of the podcasts so if you hear any clicks in the background then that's what it is.

LYDIA

It'll get edited!

ALEX

I run a loose ship...

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Anyway, so thanks again for everyone who's listening and we look forward to doing some more with you.

LYDIA

Yep. Bye!

ALL

Bye!

[Show Theme - Outro]

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[OUTTAKES]

ALEX

I'm gonna be honest, anyone with two brains is gonna - two brains?

(Group laughter)

JAMES

Wow! I think we're safe guys!

ALEX

Only people with two brains will put two and two together so you're all right!

(Group laughter)

JAMES

That's a lot of number crunching! One and one is two and... argh!

ALEX

If only you had two brains it'd be easier!

JAMES

If only, if only!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

As I was gonna say!

JAMES

Oh god that's the secret-, sorry the sequel to er, argh... Yellow Brick Road. You had the Tin Man and his two hearts.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

The writers got very lazy!

(Group laughter)

JAMES

It's an extra one! An extra one!

LYDIA

It's all about like Dorothy - er whatshername, not Dorothy-

JAMES

Wizard of Oz, yes, sorry.

LYDIA

Yeah, she is, she is er, she's trying to speculate on the property market, she wants two homes...

(Group laughter)

JAMES

Yeah, the whole thing is about basically there's a strong sub-plot of buy to let property in Kansas.

(Group laughter)

JAMES

Who really knows?

ALEX

So I give you one - I give you one mistake, pounce on it! You're like wolves, honestly!

BRYN

(Laughs)

BEN

Like really witty wolves.

ALEX

Let me get back-

BRYN

Well the thing is, unless we're funny afterwards you just edit your mistakes straight out!

(Group laughter)

BRYN

We have to instantly be funny to make you keep it in!

ALEX

I have never made a mistake, ever, or edited any episode, ever.

BRYN

He said, for the seventh time.

(Group laughter)

BEN

And how will they know?

(Group laughter)

ALEX

So, anyway...

-END-