Don Zolidis
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Ghosted

A comedy in one act

By Don Zolidis

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Cast of Characters

The Directors:
DYONNE – the queen bee, director of the play. Theater is her life.
IVY – the artistic one, principal playwright
JAIME – A jock, injured, in a cast.
JORDAN – the nice one, with a dark past.

The Actors:
RAKI – playing Anthony (the Dude).
BETHANNY – playing the role of Dyonne – very excited, doing her best.
OLIVIA – playing the role of Jordan – is a star, knows someone who knows Brad Pitt.
TARYN – playing the role of Jaime, hates everything
BEE – playing the role of Ivy, her first play

BELLA, the techie

Setting: A theater. The middle of the night.

Gender of the actors: All the roles were written for female-identifying performers. Raki and Bella could be any gender. Feel free to change pronouns accordingly.

The Ghost Light is the only light visible.
A single naked lightbulb.
We hear someone crash into something.

DYONNE *(backstage)*
Oh my gosh what is wrong with you?

JORDAN *(backstage)*
I didn't see it!
Giggling from the four would-be intruders.

IVY *(backstage)*
Can you guys be just a little bit quiet?

DYONNE *(backstage)*
I'm not the one smashing into things like a kaiju –

JORDAN *(backstage)*
You're the kaiju! You're like stomping on villagers and –

JAIME *(off-stage)*
Y'all? Can we focus?
DYONNE stumbles onto the stage, the flashlight activated on her phone.

DYONNE
I'm in.

JORDAN *(off-stage)*
You see anything?
Dyonne looks around with her flashlight
We see pieces of the set now. It looks like they are in Hell. Flats with flames painted on them. Maybe some charred rocks. A broken, wasted landscape, possibly with some kind of industrial buildings looming in this distance.

DYONNE
Like what?

IVY *(off-stage)*
Like the ghost?

DYONNE
Yeah I see the ghost with my flashlight. That's exactly what's happening right now. It's terrifying. I'm probably gonna die.
IVY and JORDAN enter cautiously.
Like the ghost is just like hanging out on stage.

IVY

I don't know what the ghost does.

DYONNE

Clearly.

JAIME enters, on crutches, or with a cast.

JAIME

For the record, this is a terrible idea and I am opposed to everything.

DYONNE

You know what? Maybe the time for voicing objections was before we broke into the theater.

JAIME

I did! You didn't/ hear me

DYONNE *(overlapping)*

You always do this! You're always like miss Deniability –

JORDAN

That was Miss Congeniality –

DYONNE

What was?

JORDAN

The movie.

DYONNE

I'm not referencing a movie!

IVY

Dyonne, sometimes it's hard for you to hear other people because you're talking so much. It's like your thing.

DYONNE

I have things to say.

JAIME

So do other people.

DYONNE

Okay. Fine. You want to go home and let the show be a total disaster tomorrow? Cause we've got like fifteen seconds before everyone else shows up –

JAIME

I'm just saying that when they arrest us –

IVY

We're getting arrested?!

DYONNE

No one is getting arrested for doing a show!

JAIME

Just imagine like paramilitary forces breaking in through the windows and like subduing us.

DYONNE

This seems likely to you. The school has that kind of budget. They're just like hiring a cadre of special forces who have nothing better to do than/ patrol a high school theater at midnight.

JAIME *(overlapping)*

I'm just saying it's possible.

DYONNE

It's not possible –

JAIME

Everything is possible!

JORDAN

Y'all. Please? We're here. We're doing this. One rehearsal. We perfect the show. We become legends.

JAIME

I think you are wildly overstating the importance of the student-directed one-act.

IVY

Jordan's right. The show was total trash today –

JAIME

And whose fault is that? Dyonne's like changing/ everything –

DYONNE

That's the past! The show is tomorrow. Or today. This is my final show. I'm not going out like this.

JAIME

Okay fine. But when y'all get arrested I don't know you people.

DYONNE

Whatever.

JORDAN

I was thinking that we should go back to Ivy's version anyway.

JAIME

Thank you.

JORDAN

She's basically like a lowkey genius.

IVY

I'm not.

JORDAN *(overlapping)*

You are!

JAIME *(overlapping)*

For real.

JORDAN *(overlapping)*

100% genius. You have to embrace your fire.

JAIME *(overlapping)*

Speak your truth!

BAM – something off-stage makes a loud noise.
They all freeze.

IVY *(whispering)*

What was that?

JORDAN *(whispering)*

It's the ghost.

JAIME *(whispering)*

We're all dead. We're all gonna die. This is when it kills us.

DYONNE *(whispering)*

Ghosts don't kill people –

JAIME *(overlapping, whispering)*

Are you serious?! Ghosts kill/ people all the time!

JORDAN

My Great Aunt was killed/ by a ghost!

DYONNE
How was she killed by a ghost? How does that make any sense?

JORDAN
She fell down the stairs.

DYONNE
Old people fall!

JORDAN
When they're pushed by ghosts!

IVY
The theater ghost is a nice ghost. Unless it's angered.

JAIME
How do you anger it?

IVY
I don't know, probably arguing, breaking in at night, saying Mac-

JORDAN
Don't say it!

DYONNE
I'll say it.

JORDAN
You're not gonna say it either!
WHAM – another noise from off-stage.
Giggling – shushing from off-stage

IVY
Is somebody there?
BETHANNY, an actress, leaps out from behind something

BETHANNY
Boo!
The girls freak out –
Ahhh that was so awesome! You guys were like Aaaaaaah!

DYONNE
We heard you like seven hundred times.

BETHANNY
I was like a ninja.

Skipping Forward

DYONNE

Right yeah okay –

OLIVIA *(overlapping)*

I went to theater camp/ last summer –

DYONNE

Yeah we know you went to theater camp –

OLIVIA *(overlapping)*

And what my director said was that you have to play comedy seriously –

DYONNE

Okay we're doing that fine.

OLIVIA

Also, I want everyone to remember that I know someone who knows Brad Pitt.

BETHANNY

What's he like?!

OLIVIA

Just like you imagine.

BETHANNY

Wow.

TARYN

What?! What does that mean? You haven't met/ him –

JORDAN

All right all right all right everyone needs to chill.

JAIME

Cause we are gonna get in so much trouble for being here.

BEE

For real?

JORDAN

No because we need to rehearse the show and the faster we get done with this the less likely we are to anger the evil spirits.

IVY

Where's Bella?

BELLA *(on microphone, from the light booth)*

I am here.

IVY

Oh there you are.

BELLA *(on microphone, like a ghost)*

Ooooooooohhhhh.

IVY

Can you give us some lights?

BELLA *(on the microphone)*

I hear and obey.

The lights rise on the stage.

We can see the set fully now. They are definitely in hell.

JAIME

Techies are so weird.

BELLA *(on the microphone)*

I heard that Jaime.

DYONNE

Okay go get in costume and we'll get started in a sec.

Raki, Bethanny, and Olivia exit to get into costumes.

BEE

Can I ask a question that's always bothered me?

DYONNE

What.

BEE *(looking around)*

Are we in Hell?

IVY

It's a metaphorical space.

TARYN

They did *Hadestown* last fall and are just re-using the set pieces –

IVY

That's not why –

TARYN

That's totally why –

IVY

I was *inspired* by what I had at hand!

BEE

I just don't know that it makes/ sense –

DYONNE

It makes total sense chill.

IVY

We are in a kind of limbo –

TARYN

That looks suspiciously like *Hadestown*.

JORDAN

Can y'all just get in costume please?

Bee and Taryn shrug and exit.

JAIME

For real.

Jaime struggles to set up a café table and chairs like there's a coffee shop in the center of Hell. There's a Starbucks cup on the table.

DYONNE

All right can we get people back out here please?

Raki enters, having put on a fake mustache or goatee. She wears a baseball cap backwards.

Bethanny enters, with a costume that looks suspiciously similar to what Dyonne is wearing.

Olivia returns, with a costume that looks suspiciously similar to what Jordan is wearing.

BETHANNY

So wait – there's a Starbucks?

JORDAN

Bethanny you are slowing things down.

BETHANNY

Is there a Starbucks in Hell?

DYONNE

Of course there's a Starbucks in Hell! There's a Starbucks everywhere.

IVY

It's like a metaphorical Starbucks.

BETHANNY

I'm so confused.

DYONNE

Let's take it from the top. Places.

Raki and Olivia exit. Bethanny settles at the café table. Dyonne is directing this scene.

And lights up.

BELLA *(on the microphone)*

They're already up.

DYONNE

You know what I mean.

BELLA *(on the microphone)*

No I do not.

DYONNE

Just don't change anything!

BELLA *(on the microphone)*

I hear and obey.

DYONNE

And go.

The play begins. Jordan, Ivy, and Jaime watch from the edge of the stage.

Bethanny drinks from her Starbucks cup, which is obviously empty.
Raki enters.

RAKI

Girl, how come you look so fine tonight?

She sits

DYONNE

Remember what we talked about, Raki. You're a dude. I need you to sit like a dude.

Raki sits like a dude.

That's right. I need dude attitude from you. Like, you get paid twenty percent extra just by showing up and you don't have to worry about anything.

RAKI

I don't worry about nothing. Cause I'm a dude.

Raki scratches, maybe spits, maybe makes a stupid hand gesture.

DYONNE

Right. Yes. The whole world belongs to you. Okay go.

Raki tries it again.

RAKI *(with dude attitude)*

Girl. How come you look so fine tonight?

BETHANNY

Cause it's our one month anniversary and I wanted it to be special!

RAKI

Dang. Is it one month already?

BETHANNY

The best month of my life!

RAKI

Girl.

BETHANNY

Yes?

RAKI

I got something to say to you.

BETHANNY

What is it?

RAKI

Just wait here I'll be right back.

Raki gets up – she walks –

DYONNE *(from the side)*

Dude attitude!

Raki does an exaggerated swagger over to the side of the stage –
Where Olivia rushes in, dressed like Jordan.

OLIVIA

There you are. I've been waiting out here in the cold for you.

She shivers, looks around at the flames painted on the flats.

Maybe I should be hot?

DYONNE

Don't change the lines!

RAKI

Girl. How come you look so fine tonight?

OLIVIA

Oh this outfit that took me an hour to put together? It's nothing.

RAKI

You in that outfit: Fire.

OLIVIA

And I like what you're wearing. The same clothes you wore yesterday.

RAKI

It's my look.

OLIVIA

You put a lot of thought and effort into picking that up off your floor.

RAKI

You know it.

OLIVIA

But I need more, Anthony.

Taryn enters, dressed like Jaime.

TARYN

Wait a minute, is that the real guy's name?

DYONNE

Shush back off.

TARYN

You wrote a play flaming your ex?

DYONNE

It could be anyone named Anthony!

TARYN

But you literally dated an Anthony –

JORDAN

I wouldn't say dated. It was more like an ill-advised fling. He actually dated me.

DYONNE

He didn't date you. He made a series of mistakes that resulted in you.

JORDAN

Oh okay.

DYONNE

The point is – this could be any guy that toys with the hearts of intelligent, powerful women.

Bee enters

BEE

Wait – so there's a Starbucks?

IVY

Yes there's a Starbucks relax.

BEE

I'm just trying to dissect this play –

JORDAN

Do not dissect the play please!

BEE

But like, okay, we're in limbo, which is a metaphorical space with a metaphorical Starbucks, and there's a guy who may or may not be your ex?

IVY

Yes.

BEE

Is the audience supposed to understand things?

IVY

The audience will understand that this is an interrogation of sexism and the terrible choices women make to subvert their fire –

JAIME *(underneath)*

Preach

IVY *(continuous)*

Which is how you can get condemned into a metaphorical space where your dreams die and you live in perpetual flaming agony.
It's about dating.

BEE

Fair.

TARYN

Skipping Forward

JAIME

Honestly, I hope the cops come. Some people deserve to be in prison.

Jordan motions to Olivia for a big open heart –

DYONNE

Let's go.

BETHANNY

Am I just sitting here the whole time?

JORDAN and DYONNE

Yes!

BETHANNY

All right am I just like staring off into space then? Like a robot? Like I've just deactivated?

DYONNE

Sure.

BETHANNY

Okay.

Bethanny stares like she's been deactivated.

Beep boop.

DYONNE

Quietly!

BETHANNY *(quietly)*

Beep boop.

IVY *(to no one in particular)*

Sometimes I think that art's gonna save the world. And then I look at this and I'm like – no.

They start up from where they stopped. Olivia is really into it.

OLIVIA

But I need more, Anthony.

RAKI

What.

OLIVIA

I said I need more. Maybe this is just a game for you! Maybe you enjoy toying with people's hearts, but –

RAKI

All right yeah I gotta go.

OLIVIA
I need to say this! I am a special flower, and if you can't appreciate that, then –

DYONNE
Can we get a phone buzz there?

BELLA *(on the microphone)*
Buzz.

DYONNE
Like an actual phone buzz?

BELLA *(on the microphone)*
Oh okay sure let me just go through my supply of sound effects.
Oh wait I don't have that because I'm just one person in the booth.

DYONNE *(yelling up at the booth)*
Your job is to come up with solutions!

JAIME
Maybe someone can just call her at the right time?

IVY
The service in here is terrible so no –

OLIVIA
I've got most of y'all blocked anyway.

TARYN
You blocked me?

OLIVIA
Um… I had to.

TARYN
Why?

OLIVIA
Cause you're annoying.

JORDAN
Just fake the buzz.

OLIVIA
I need to say this! I am a special flower, and if you can't appreciate that, then –

RAKI *(under her breath)*

Buzz.

Raki takes out her phone.

OLIVIA

I'm talking to you!

RAKI

Yeah hold on.

Raki texts something.

OLIVIA

Anthony Edward Barnes, you are the worst!

TARYN

You got the whole name there –

RAKI

I gotta peace out. Girl. When I get back, I want you lookin' just as fine as you do now. Girl.

OLIVIA

Did you hear anything I said?!

Raki looks her up and down, maybe licks her fingers or some other gross dude-like gesture.

RAKI

Fire.

She swaggers off –
BEE enters, elsewhere, dressed like Ivy.

BEE

Anthony, is that you?

BETHANNY *(by herself in the middle of the stage, like a robot)*

Beep boop.

Raki swaggers over to Ivy.

RAKI

Dang, girl. You lookin' fine tonight.

BEE

Um… line?

DYONNE

You can't call line the show is tomorrow!

BEE

Line?

DYONNE

It's your second line!

IVY

The line is, I didn't think you were going to make it. And in this scene, your heart is breaking because you thought he was the one, all right?

TARYN

Ivy.

IVY

What?

TARYN

You're like the smart one.

IVY

I know.

TARYN

Were you involved with this guy too?

DYONNE

You don't need to answer that.

IVY

He has a way –

JORDAN

It's like mind control honestly – He gets inside your brain and then you can't think straight.

TARYN

So every one of you dated the same loser, and then y'all collaborated to write a play flaming him in front of everyone?

JAIME

It's art shut up.

DYONNE

Let's take it back.

They start over

RAKI

Dang, girl. You lookin' fine tonight.

BEE

I didn't think you were going to make it. My heart is breaking.

IVY

That's subtext!

RAKI

You know I always make it.

DYONNE

Check her out more!

Raki tries to check her out more

JORDAN

Like you're an unfixed dog!

Raki tries even harder

JAIME

You're just a slobbering ball of hormones and Axe body spray!

Raki tries the hardest.

IVY

You think he's the one!

Bee and Raki stare at each other. Raki like he's about to eat the last piece of cake. Bee like she's meeting Taylor Swift.

DYONNE

Yes! More! More!

They try more

And say your line!

RAKI

I got a thing somewhere else, I gotta go.

Raki swaggers away.

Bee collapses.

Taryn enters, dressed like Jaime. She carries a lacrosse stick.

TARYN

I'm just sportsballing over here.

BEE

They have lacrosse in Hell?

JAIME
Of course they have lacrosse in Hell. That's where it belongs.
Raki swaggers up to Taryn.

RAKI
Girl, I watched your lacrosse game. Fire.

TARYN
Thanks.

RAKI
My question is this: How you look so fine when you're hitting other girls with that stick?

TARYN
Just lucky I guess.

RAKI
Maybe I could holler at you some time?

TARYN
I heard you were a player.

RAKI
What. No. Pssht. I can't help it if everybody wants to get with this. You know I was gonna go to the gym later. Maybe you could come watch me lift things. Or you could lift things and I could spot you. I'm spottin' you right now.
In my mind.
Raki points to her mind

TARYN *(breaking character)*
How does this work on her?

JAIME
Good question. Good question.

TARYN
Am I supposed to be like, intrigued by this?

JAIME
You're not supposed to be. But you are.

TARYN
I feel like every female character in this play is an idiot –

BETHANNY

I'm not an idiot, I'm a robot. Beep Boop –

DYONNE

You don't need to comment on everything, Taryn!

TARYN

Well somebody needs to comment on it, because clearly none of y'all were thinking when you wrote this stupid thing! How am I supposed to respect myself and stay in this play? You know what I -

A tennis ball drops from the catwalks or is thrown in from off-stage.
Everyone stops.
They watch the ball.

DYONNE

Is someone in the catwalks?

They all look up.

JORDAN

Hey Bella did you do that?

BELLA *(on the mic)*

Do what?

JORDAN

Drop the ball.

BELLA *(into mic)*

I never drop the ball.

JORDAN

No I mean like a literal ball. A ball just fell onto the stage. From above.

DYONNE

Is anyone up there?

No response

Weird.

IVY

Is it the ghost?

BETHANNY

What ghost?

IVY

The theater ghost.

DYONNE *(sarcastic)*
The theater ghost just drops a ball. That's what it does.

IVY
I don't know.

TARYN
All right, I'm out.

DYONNE
What?!

TARYN
If there's a ghost it's going to kill us and I'm getting out now before the freakiness starts.

RAKI
What if the ghost is planning on drilling holes into our foreheads and then like extracting our brains?

DYONNE
Why?!

RAKI
Maybe that's it's thing. Don't judge.

DYONNE
Guys! It's a ball! It fell! THERE'S NO GHOST!
WHUMP.
A piece of the set falls over.

BEE
AAAAAAAHHHHHHH!
Everyone is a little freaked out.
Bee is a LOT freaked out.
OH MY GOD OH NO OH MY GOD OH OH OH AAAAAAAAAAAH!
Everyone else is settling down.
AAAAAAH AAAAAAAH AAAAAAAH

IVY
Okay, um Bee?

BEE
OH MY GOD OH MY GOD*
**You can replace all the instances of "God" with "Gosh" if necessary.*

JORDAN

Okay Bee settle.

Bee starts calming down.

OLIVIA

I went to theater camp last summer and there was a ghost there? It was the animated remains of a coal miner that had suffocated on his own vomit after falling down a well? It was so scary. It was way scarier than this.

JAIME

Did you see this animated miner ghost?

OLIVIA

I heard about it.

TARYN

Why would there be a ghost of a *miner* in a *theater* –

DYONNE

Don't ask questions.

OLIVIA

Sometimes it would put on wigs and play all the roles in *Our Town*. Actually Zendaya saw it once. She went to my same theater camp.

DYONNE

Okay, Olivia –

OLIVIA

I'm just saying. It could be worse.

DYONNE

This isn't even a ghost –

BETHANNY

Oh it's a ghost all right. And I've got a plan. We kill it.

IVY

It threw a ball at us I think that's a little harsh!

BETHANNY

We meet force with force. Straight up exorcism, y'all.

OLIVIA

We did an exorcism at theater camp I totally know how to do it.

BETHANNY

Awesome.

IVY

Guys. No. The theater ghost lives in the theater. You can't kill it.

BETHANNY

Watch me.

OLIVIA

We might need the blood of a forest creature.

RAKI

Usually there's a few squirrels in the costume closet.

TARYN

Okay, again, to reiterate: I'm out. You do whatever this is on your own time - I enjoy sleep and being alive. So I'm going to go home and pretend none of this happened and live my best life.

BEE

I'm with Taryn. I think we run away.

DYONNE

No! We go on with the show! The play is tomorrow and you don't even know your lines!

BEE

How'm I gonna learn my lines when I'm freaking out?!

DYONNE

Maybe freak out less! Seriously that was really excessive just a minute ago! That is not a normal human reaction!

BEE

That's how I react!

JORDAN

I mean I get it, I'm scared too, but for real Bee that was extra.

OLIVIA

Okay I need some things from the prop closet –

DYONNE

No, guys –

BETHANNY

I'm going with you.

Skipping Forward

Save yourselves! Leave me behind! I'll only slow you down!

JORDAN

Okay!

Jordan runs off.
No one else runs.
Jordan comes back in a second later.

I thought we were running away.

DYONNE

No one said we were running away!

JORDAN

Jaime said that –

JAIME

I'm being hysterical don't listen to me!

JORDAN

You're going to sit here and be in the presence of this possessed doll!?

DYONNE

We don't know that it's possessed!

JORDAN *(in one continuous breath)*

IT'S TOTALLY POSSESSED LOOK AT IT IT'S COMING TO LIFE IT'S GOT A KNIFE ITS EYES FOLLOW YOU EVERYWHERE WE ARE ALL DOOMED I'M LEAVING BYE.

Jordan flees

IVY *(speaking aloud)*

Okay theater ghost? We are sorry that we have offended you!

JAIME

I think the ghost is in the doll.

DYONNE

Or maybe the ghost just placed the doll there and is really somewhere else?

IVY

I don't know! It doesn't matter!

DYONNE

Well I mean you just have to direct your speech/ to the proper place –

IVY

Aarrrrrghg stop it you don't have to control everything Dyonne! Maybe the theater ghost is mad because you're always on a power trip and changed the play and didn't listen to anybody else!

DYONNE

Maybe the theater ghost is applauding the fact that I made the play *better* by inserting actual logic/ into it –

IVY

Maybe the theater ghost thinks you're a terrible friend/ and a jerk -

DYONNE

Maybe the theater ghost knows that everything I do is to make all of us look good/ so that -

JAIME

Stop it! Both of you!

Another tennis ball falls onto the stage or rolls across the stage.

They watch it.

Do you think maybe the ghost wants to play tennis?

IVY

I think I know what it wants.

DYONNE

Who?

IVY

I think it doesn't like it when we fight. Like, maybe it just wants us to quite arguing and do the show.

DYONNE

It want to see *this* show?

IVY *(yelling out)*

Theater ghost! DO YOU WANT US TO CONTINUE REHEARSING THE PLAY?

The lights flick on and off.

They freak out just a little.

See?

JAIME

Maybe the answer was no. You didn't specify.

IVY *(yelling out)*

WILL YOU KILL US IF WE DON'T DO THE SHOW?

Everyone freaks out.

DYONNE

WHY WOULD YOU EVEN ASK THAT?!

IVY

Nothing happened, so that means/ that it won't kill us if –

JAIME

OR – blinking the lights means no, and not blinking the lights means yes! And now it's definitely going to kill us!

DYONNE

Theater ghost! START WITH THE PEOPLE WHO AREN'T LISTENING TO THE DIRECTOR.

JAIME

Dyonne!

DYONNE

I mean –

IVY

Theater ghost, DOES BLINKING THE LIGHTS ONCE MEAN YES?

They wait half a second.
Then the lights blink.

JAIME

ARE YOU INSIDE THIS CREEPY DOLL?

They wait again.
Then the lights blink.
They all freak out and move away from the doll.

DYONNE

Okay okay – um… sure…

She waves at the doll

Hi. So what we're gonna do, we're going to go get all the actors back out here and we're gonna do the show. Cool? Is that cool?

The lights blink.

Sweet.

Dyonne, Jaime, and Ivy rush out as best as they can just as

Bethanny and Olivia return with armfuls of supplies for their exorcism.
They've basically found everything weird in the props closet.

BETHANNY

Okay so we set up here and –

Olivia spots the creepy doll
Points at it

OLIVIA

AAAAAAAHHHHH!

BETHANNY

AHHHHHHHHH!
They stop.
Is it moving? I can't look at it.

OLIVIA

I don't think so. But it could be like one of the statues from Dr. Who that moves when your eyes are closed.

BETHANNY

What are you talking about?

BELLA *(on the microphone)*

The weeping angels. They're powerful quantumly-locked humanoids.

OLIVIA *(up to Bella)*

You watch Dr. Who?

BELLA *(on the microphone)*

Of course I watch Dr. Who what kind of question is that?

OLIVIA

We watched Dr. Who at –

BETHANNY

Was it at theater camp?
Was it at theater camp, Olivia?
Was it at theater camp?

OLIVIA

It was at… band camp, actually.

BELLA *(on the microphone)*

Respect.

BETHANNY

Okay so first we create a holy space –
She calls out
Spirit! Prepare to be banished!

OLIVIA

You're getting banished! Playtime is over! Enjoy your existence in the outlands being chased down by sandworms!

BETHANNY

What are the outlands?

OLIVIA

It's from *Beetlejuice.*

BETHANNY

So we consecrate this area and –

She looks around

You know this would work better if the set didn't actually look like we were in Hell.

OLIVIA

For real.

BETHANNY

Leave it to the seniors to write a play literally flaming their ex. With actual flames.

OLIVIA

He's not even that cute.

BETHANNY

Right?

OLIVIA

That's why I only dated him for like two weeks.

Bethanny gives her a look

He's got a way!

BETHANNY

I'm so disappointed in everyone.

OLIVIA

Let's just get on with it.

BETHANNY

All right, ready?

OLIVIA

Let's do this, woo!

BETHANNY

Theater spirit! I abjure you, in the spirit of Thespis, to leave this place and –

Dyonne, Ivy, and Jaime rush back in. (Jaime tries to rush on her crutches)

IVY

Wait no stop!

BETHANNY

Shush we're about to exorcise the demon spirit!

JAIME

No no no the ghost isn't a demon spirit!

DYONNE

He's just a fan!

IVY

Why are you assuming that the ghost is a guy?

DYONNE

Because he's totally obsessed and watching us all the time and not very good at communicating?

IVY

Fair.

JAIME

We need everybody back. That's the only way we live through the night.

BETHANNY

What?! You just said he wasn't a demon spirit –

JAIME

He's a very serious theater fan and he wants to see the show!

The lights flicker again.

Bethanny and Olivia freak out.

See?

And he will kill us if we don't do the show.

She waits a second for the lights to flicker, but they don't.

Probably.

IVY

We need everybody back!

OLIVIA

I think most everybody fled.

Jordan, Raki, Bee, and Taryn return.

They have snacks.

TARYN

What's up?

JAIME

I thought you guys were running away?

RAKI

We started to, but I didn't stretch out beforehand so I like totally pulled a hammy –

BEE

And also apparently the ghost locked all the doors so we're trapped here and I screamed for a long, long time and then -

DYONNE

Did you guys get snacks?!

RAKI

I was hungry!

BEE

Yeah that's what we did.

IVY

Where are the snacks?

RAKI

Mr. Morris keeps a stash in his office.

DYONNE

You broke into his office?

RAKI

It's not breaking in if the door is propped open so he can't lock it.

DYONNE

Yes it is!

RAKI

Okay narc.

IVY

It doesn't matter! We figured it out! The ghost is right there!

She points to the creepy doll, which Raki, Taryn, and Bee see for the first time.

RAKI, TARYN, and BEE

AAAAAAAAAHHHH!

TARYN

KILL IT KILL IT WITH FIRE!

BEE *(freaking out long after everyone else has stopped freaking out)*

AAAAAAAAAHHHHHHH!

DYONNE

STOP! Stop it! The ghost is just a fan and wants to see our show. Right?

The lights flicker.

Bee whimpers in spite of herself.

And if we do the show without arguing AT ALL, he will release us. Right?

The lights flicker again.

JAIME

And if we argue at all during the show, the ghost will kill a bunch of us.
Probably.

TARYN

I'm not the one who argues.

IVY

You argue about everything! You're the worst one!
And also Jordan and Bee and Raki.

RAKI

What did I do?! I'm not arguing! You are the people who stop every four seconds to bicker!

The lights flicker –

Oh. I mean. Maybe we should stop doing that.

TARYN *(carefully)*

Yes. We will now be very non-argumentative.

DYONNE *(carefully)*

Good idea, Taryn.

JAIME *(carefully)*

Yes. It is excellent to all take helpful suggestions and proceed with the play.

BEE *(carefully)*

And I have no problems with there being a Starbucks in Hell.

TARYN *(carefully)*

Or that the entire play just flames your exes.

OLIVIA *(carefully)*

Who I totally did not date for long.

DYONNE

Wait, what?

OLIVIA

Nothing!

DYONNE

So we do the play one time with no arguing, perfectly, and then the ghost will let us leave –

BEE

Or live –

DYONNE

Or live. Right?

The lights flicker in response.

There we go. So let's take it from the top!

TARYN

Brilliant suggestion! You're a very good director!

IVY

And I'm glad no one will stop the play to interject.

DYONNE

Nope!

JORDAN

All right then. Bella, are you ready?

BELLA *(on the microphone)*

Yeah sure I guess.

JORDAN

Places for the top of the show!

End of Excerpt.
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