Don Zolidis
donzolidis@gmail.com

The One-Act Play Disaster

By Don Zolidis

A comedy in one-act

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One-Act Comedy

Cast Size: 5M 5W 5 Any

Pulling off a heist is pretty tough. But that's nothing compared to pulling off an unauthorized adaptation of a popular heist movie onstage. Everything that can go wrong, will go wrong when you've got a light board operator out for revenge, a dollar-store set and a cast that's a total mess. The smooth-talking con man has crippling stage fright, the acrobat is completely uncoordinated and the understudy keeps reading all the stage directions out loud. Can the group survive a run-through? It might be a total disaster, but it will definitely be hilarious.

Cast of Characters

The Crew:

CHARMAINE, the student director, in over her head (can be played by any gender)

KIMYA, the light and sound operator

ADDITIONAL CREW MEMBERS, (may be double-cast with actors)

The Thieves:

EDDIE, the mastermind of the whole thing, played by Actor 1: deeply convinced that he knows what's going on. Has a sprained ankle and is currently on crutches.

ELISE, Eddie's protégé, played by Actor 2: has no idea what's going on, but is convinced she does – over-acts terribly (can be any gender)

RONDO, the smooth-talking con artist, played by Actor 3, who has crippling stage fright (can be any gender)

AMANDA, the ex-wife of the casino boss, played by Actor 4, who is filling for an actor that got busted for shoplifting – she has no idea what the blocking is and reads her lines from a script in her hand.

MO, the acrobat, played by Actor 5 – woefully miscast as the acrobat, the most uncoordinated person ever (can be played by any gender)

BOOMHAISER, the demolitions expert, played by Actor 6, who has recently broken up with Kimya the light and sound operator. Actor 6 would probably be pretty good if he could ever get the chance.

SIMON, the financier, a businessman, played by Actor 7 (female), who has to wear a fake mustache and pretend to be a man. She's only in the show because she's in love with Actor 6. Consequently, Kimya the light operator hates her too.

SVETLANA, the Russian Computer Hacker, played by Actor 8, who has a very strong accent and is chewing the scenery.

KNUCKLES, the muscle, mixed martial artist, played by Actor 9, who is very, very, very sick. (can by any gender)

The Casino Employees:

HOLLIS MCDOUGAL, owner of the Casino, suave, probably with slicked back hair – played by actor 10, the least suave person in the show – married to AMANDA,

GUARD 1: (gender neutral) kind of nerdy. Nervous.

GUARD 2: (gender neutral) STAR POWER, thinks they are the star of the show, upset they didn't get a larger role. A wild card.

GUARD 3: (funnier if male, but could be female as well) keeps things going. Knows everything.

This play can be done with a cast of 15, or a larger group.

The Set itself: The Bellagio Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. As imagined with fifteen dollars. The set should look laughably bad, as if it was just put together in the last day or so, perhaps painted flats. Stock doors. A few potted plants that are obviously fake. It should look like the members of the cast got together at a Dollar Store and found a few things.

--inflatable furniture if possible.

Creating additional set mayhem: I have written this play for minimal technical requirements. However, if your capacity is greater, you may develop and work in additional "problems" with the set, lights, and sound cues. The playwright gives permission to adjust any bits as necessary.

Music: Depending on your capabilities, music would be great underscoring some of the scenes. Look at the soundtracks to Ocean's 11, 12, 13 for ideas.

Costumes: The show is trying to portray the glitz and glamour of Las Vegas with zero budget. Whatever can be scrounged from a costume closet will work.

Pre-Show

The show is not ready.

It's quite obvious the show is not ready.

Flats upstage depicted the Bellagio Hotel and Casino in rather pathetic glory. Perhaps a big sign reads "BELLAGIO HOTEL AND CASINO" over a flat showing a fountain.

CREW MEMBERS 1 and 2 are rushing across the stage, putting the final touches on the set. They drag in a "craps table" which is a fancy folding table with the words "CRAPS TABLE" written on it. One of the legs does not work. The table tips over. They leave it. It tips over again. CREW MEMBER 2 grabs one of the fake plants and puts it underneath the broken leg to keep it propped up.

A CAST MEMBER looks out from behind a curtain and waves at someone in the audience.

Another CAST MEMBER looks out and waves at a different person.

CHARMAINE, the director, enters in a rush and shoves them all backstage.

CHARMAINE *(stage whisper)*

They're not supposed to see you! It's like a wedding!

CHARMAINE moves the curtains to hide the actors, then realizes she is seen. She turns around.

Once she turns around, an actor peeks out from behind the curtain and waves at family members again.

CHARMAINE turns, but they've hidden themselves.

CHARMAINE notices the plant underneath the craps table. She removes the plant – the table falls over.

She holds onto the table to keep it upright.

CHARMAINE

Okay welcome to our competition production of Seabreeze's Nine! Just a reminder to turn off your cell phone and please, please, for the love of all that is holy, do not record this. Seriously. No record of this should exist.

She takes a deep breath, extremely nervous.

They said it couldn't be done! They also said it shouldn't be done. How could you do an unauthorized adaptation of Ocean's Eleven in 35 minutes or less with no budget? Well… behold!

She waves her hands at the set.

I'd like to thank Jacob's Mom who told us she was a professional painter and she painted all these flats and um…

Turns to look at them.

She really likes birds I guess. It's just really inspiring that she just keeps going after her dream even though she fails again and again. Uh, other parents who helped out and a shout-out to the parents who just ignored all the emails. We see you. We know who you are. We will have our revenge. Ha ha ha just kidding we really appreciate all the time and effort you put into not answering those emails.

Takes another breath.
So also your program is wrong - the role of Amanda is being played by Nikki O'Donaghue who is –
AMANDA pulls aside the curtain and waves at the audience. CHARMAINE turns to her.
You're not supposed to wave. You don't wave.

AMANDA

Oh. Hi Mom!

CHARMAINE

No no – hey – get backstage. No one is supposed to see you.
AMANDA goes backstage.
Nikki is filling in for original actress, Jasmine St. John, who was arrested for shoplifting three hundred dollars worth of Pokemon cards on Tuesday, which was a really intelligent choice on her part – she wants to let everyone to know she has set up a gofundme page to post her bail, there are links in the program if you want to donate. If you are dumb. So as soon as our light person is ready we will start the timer –
She looks towards the light area.
Our light person is not in the booth. Okay. Good to know.
KIMYA runs out from backstage, dressed all in black.

KIMYA

Sorry! Sorry! Sorry! It's all good! No problems! Hi Mom!

CHARMAINE

You don't wave. You wear black you are not to be seen!

KIMYA

It's okay, I'm fine.
She starts to break down, crying
I was talking to Daniel, and I thought I found love, but I was… wrong…

CHARMAINE

Why are you talking to him?
Daniel (BOOMHAISER) rushes onto the stage, in costume.

BOOMHAISER

I never said we were going out!

KIMYA *(to BOOMHAISER)*

I don't even want to look at you! You are dead to me! We had something special! And now it's OVER!
She starts crying.
SIMON (actor 7, wearing a mustache)

SIMON

Kimya. I am so sorry, I didn't know –

KIMYA *(to SIMON, devil voice)*
YOU WILL PAY. I SWEAR VENGEANCE ON BOTH OF YOU.

SIMON
You got it all wrong! We're not even going out!
KIMYA screams, then heads through the audience to the light booth area.

KIMYA
Don't talk to me!

CHARMAINE
Okay. So we'll wait for the cue from our light person –
KIMYA cries loudly from wherever she is.
And whenever she is ready to go…
KIMYA cries louder.
We will be starting the show.
Pause. No crying.
CHARMAINE looks at her, raises a thumb questioningly.
KIMYA cries again.
Any minute now. Because we are already losing time.
Lights down suddenly.

CHARMAINE exits, bumps into something.
Something falls over. A CREW MEMBER runs out to replace it just as the lights come up.

We hear crying from the light booth.

Start of the play

Lights up.

HOLLIS, looking slick, stands in the middle of the stage. GUARDS 1-3 take positions at the various casino games. PATRONS (if they exist, pantomime playing the games.)

HOLLIS
You hear that? That's the sound of money in my casino.
(not looking at anyone)
Barry how's the take today?
(no answer)
I said BARRY HOW'S THE TAKE TODAY?

GUARD 1 *(from the back)*
GOOD BOSS.

HOLLIS

You know what I like better than good? Great.

EDDIE enters, on crutches. (All of EDDIE's blocking is excessively intricate.)

Eddie Seabreeze, what are you doing here?

EDDIE

Can't a guy just go on a stroll through a casino?

EDDIE tries to navigate his way through the games.
HOLLIS follows him.

HOLLIS

Get outta my casino you thief.

EDDIE *(still moving)*

Haven't you heard? I'm a free man. Paid my debt to society.

HOLLIS

Wait for me.

EDDIE

I'm a busy man. I've got a lot on the agenda.

HOLLIS hurries after him.

All legitimate business interests.

EDDIE turns to look at HOLLIS.

Like yourself, no doubt.

HOLLIS

Here's ten thousand dollars. Walk out that door and never turn back.

EDDIE

Very generous. But I'm afraid…

He moves around HOLLIS, looking off-stage to where AMANDA is supposed to enter from. He doesn't see her.

I've got too much on my mind.

AMANDA, (holding a script, but trying to hide it, enters from the wrong side of the stage.)

HOLLIS

Like my wife?

AMANDA is right behind them. She speaks suddenly, startling them – EDDIE drops his crutches. He struggles to pick them up while staying balanced on one foot during the next exchange.

AMANDA *(reading from the script)*	EDDIE
What's going on?	Ahh!

HOLLIS

This guy was just leaving.

EDDIE *(straining to reach his crutches)*

Without introducing me to the lovely… Amanda, is it?

AMANDA *(loud stage whisper)*

That's not your line.

EDDIE *(loud stage whisper)*

Yes it is.

AMANDA *(loud stage whisper)*

No it's not I've got it right here. You say –

EDDIE

Without introducing me to the *beautiful*… Amanda, is it?

AMANDA

Oh I know who you are. Eddie Seabreeze. The hustler. Eddie kisses her hand.

EDDIE is about to kiss her hand as she reads his stage direction out loud.
He decides not to.
MUSIC CUE starts – wayyyyy too loud.

EDDIE *(shouting to be heard over the music)*

You're right. I should be going.

CHARMAINE starts trying to get the sound operator's attention to cut the sound.

HOLLIS

What?

EDDIE

YOU'RE RIGHT I *(music cuts out)* SHOULD BE GOING. And Hollis… take care of the diamonds in your vault. I hope they're insured.

He hobbles off-stage left.

HOLLIS

Don't talk to that guy. Come on honey.

AMANDA

Exits.

She heads off-stage opposite Hollis.

Scene change.
MUSIC CUE – the same music cue as before at decent volume.

CREW MEMBERS rush the casino stuff off-stage as a CREW-MEMBER runs in and plants a sign that says "PRISON" on it. ELISE enters, with a handheld phone receiver, not attached to anything. ELISE is terrible at acting, but thinks she's amazing. She speaks into the receiver. Whenever possible, ELISE moves around with the receiver, since she has no idea what a landline is.

ELISE

What do you WANT, Eddie?

EDDIE

I want to take out the Bellagio.

ELISE

Is this because you were IGNORED as a CHILD?

EDDIE

It can be done.

ELISE

Ha ha HA HA HA! THAT's CRAZY!

A crew member runs out and hands a phone receiver to EDDIE, who tries to hold it, while keeping himself upright on his crutches.

EDDIE

Two words: The Crown Jewels of Monaco. Currently stored in the vault of the Bellagio Hotel and Casino.

ELISE

CAN'T BE DONE! You'd need a CREW of at least ten, all pulling different CONS! A Barney Rubble, a Yu-Gi-Oh, two Scooby Doos, and the biggest Ash Pokemon Trainer EVER.

EDDIE

Crew of nine.

ELISE

I'M IN!

EDDIE is thrown off.

Because the house always wins. But not this time, Elise. NOT THIS TIME.

EDDIE *(under his breath)*

That's my line.

ELISE

How long you been practicing that speech, Eddie?

EDDIE

Skipping Forward

EDDIE

I think we found our acrobat.

EDDIE and ELISE shake hands, then head off – EDDIE on crutches.

SVETLANA, wearing a platinum blonde wig, enters from the other side of the stage, in very high heels that she can't walk in, with a briefcase. She tries to walk quickly, but is awful at it. She sets down her briefcase, opens it.
It's very hard for her to lean down and get her laptop out of the briefcase. She tries. Fails. Tries again. Manages to get it out.

SVETLANA

Hello Facebook. Time to get all of your personal data for Mother Russia. By which I mean me.

EDDIE tries to cruise by on crutches.

EDDIE

You ever want to go legit, and by legit I mean stealing the crown jewels of Monaco?

SVETLANA

Eddie Seabreeze.

EDDIE

Putting a team together. We could use a hacker.

SVETLANA

But I am doing so well stealing from the Facebook.

Pause.

They wait.

Oh no it is alarm.

EDDIE

It must be the silent alarm!

GUARD 2 runs across the stage.

SVETLANA

Yes it is –

GUARD 2 rings the alarm, which is an egg timer – over and over again.

No wait I am hearing it now.

EDDIE

Yes. How fast can you run in those heels?

SVETLANA

Very fast.

GUARD 1 enters as a security guard.

GUARD 1

Hey you. Stop right there!

SVETLANA leans down to grab her briefcase – fails – tries again – grabs it - EDDIE and SVETLANA run as fast they can manage –

The GUARD could easily catch them, but mimes running behind them –

They're getting away!

EDDIE and SVETLANA finally make it off the stage.

Darn.

Another CREW MEMBER brings in a punching bag and holds it in the air.

KNUCKLES, deathly sick, and trying not to throw up, enters, and pretends to be punching it.

ELISE enters.

ELISE

Thought I'd FIND you here, Knuckles.

KNUCKLES

I'm not doin' it.

ELISE

Big job. And you're the TOUGHEST person I KNOW.

KNUCKLES takes a second, about to puke.

KNUCKLES

I'm peaceful now.

Tries to punch the bag, but doesn't do it well.

I believe in non-violence.

Tries to punch the bag again.

ELISE

We're hitting the Bellagio.

KNUCKLES is about to puke again. Stares at the floor.

KNUCKLES

…I'm in.

KNUCKLES sits down. Stays on stage. Staring at the floor.

EDDIE enters, clearly starting the next scene.

KNUCKLES stays there.

EDDIE

Two left. A demolitions expert. And I know just the guy.

ELISE

I Bet YOU DO.

EDDIE

I do. And I'm gonna get him on the phone.

KNUCKLES slowly gets to their feet, walks through the scene with EDDIE and ELISE – then runs off-stage to puke.

ELISE *(thrown)*

Good.

BOOMHAISER enters opposite, on the phone, in light.

BOOMHAISER

Eddie Seabreeze? Never heard of -

*The lights go out on BOOMHAISER's area.**

**Play with this. If you can light specific areas of the stage, have the lighted areas continuously move away from BOOMHAISER, as KIMYA takes her revenge on him. Basically, KIMYA will put the lights out on wherever BOOMHAISER is. BOOMHAISER should be continually trying to find his light throughout the entire play.*

***If you have no control over lighting areas, and can only turn lights on and off – have the lights go off whenever he tries to speak. Then come back up.*

Eddie Seabreeze? Never –

The lights go out on him.

BOOMHAISER moves to a different part of the stage. He finds light.

Eddie Sea –

The lights go out.

BOOMHAISER runs and gets in light.

Waits. The lights stay on.

Waits. Looks at the light booth.

Eddie Seabr-

The lights go out on him.

KIMYA *(from the light booth)*

I BELIEVED IN You!

BOOMHAISER *(in the dark)*

You were never my girlfriend!

KIMYA *(from the light booth)*

THAT HURTS MORE!

CHARMAINE rushes over to BOOMHAISER –

CHARMAINE *(stage whisper)*

Just lie to her! For the duration of the play!

BOOMHAISER *(in the dark, stage whisper)*

Fine. KIMYA – I'M SORRY – I LOVE YOU – TAKE ME BACK.

Lights come up on BOOMHAISER.

He takes a breath

The lights go out on him.

KIMYA

Liar!

He sprints to an area with light, possibly near an EXIT sign.
**If possible, a blinding spotlight shines into his eyes.*
***If you have a spotlight here, let the spotlight move away from BOOMHAISER – illuminating his feet, perhaps, then moving up a wall. Then moving away from him, off the stage. The leading him off to the edge of the stage with him falling off.*

BOOMHAISER, stunned and injured, illuminates his own face with a flashlight.

BOOMHAISER *(through gritted teeth)*

Eddie Seabreeze? Never heard of him.

EDDIE

Neither have I. But if he did exist, he'd have a job for a demolitions expert.

BOOMHAISER

What's the take?

EDDIE

One ninth of the crown jewels of Monaco.

BOOMHAISER

I'm in.

He turns off his flashlight.
Lights go up on him.
BOOMHAISER stares at the light booth.

If you want me to apologize for -

Lights go out on him.

EDDIE

And last, the purse. Simon St. Peter.

EDDIE and ELISE approach SIMON, played by a girl in a mustache.

SIMON

To what do I – ? *(trying to say "to what do I owe this pleasure?)*

The lights go out on SIMON.
BOOMHAISER storms onto the set.

BOOMHAISER

She didn't have anything to do with it!

KIMYA *(from the booth)*

FINE!

Lights come back up on them.
Whenever SIMON speaks, KIMYA plays an unpleasant sound effect.

SIMON

To what do I owe this pleasure?

Unpleasant sound effect.

ELISE takes SIMON by the shoulder. EDDIE tries to take SIMON by the other shoulder but has a really hard time of it because he can't catch up.

ELISE

How would you like to STRIKE A BLOW for the common man?

EDDIE *(hissing)*

That's my line.

ELISE *(back to him)*

I do it better.

SIMON

I don't care much for the common man.

Unpleasant sound effect.

SIMON stares at the light booth.

EDDIE catches up to SIMON.

EDDIE

We're taking –

ELISE takes her by the shoulder.

ELISE *(overlapping)*

Taking out the Bellagio.

SIMON

That's Hollis MacDougal's casino.

Unpleasant noise. SIMON makes a move towards the sound booth just as EDDIE is about to catch up to her.

EDDIE

Oh you're -

ELISE *(overlapping)*

You're FAMILIAR with him?

SIMON

Hollis MacDougal is octopus dung. He's lint vomit. He's a bucket of slime in human form.

ELISE

WHAT did he do?

SIMON
He built his casino right in front of mine and ruined my view.

EDDIE *(finally catching her)*
Look Simon, we know you're rich. And the only thing rich people like more than trampling the poor - is trampling the other rich. This is your chance. We hit him where it hurts.

ELISE
The family jewels.

EDDIE
The crown jewels.

SIMON
They've got be insured.

EDDIE
Can't be insured. They're priceless. Special arrangement with the government of Monaco – the crown prince is gambling here tomorrow night, part of a tour of the United States – the jewels go in the vault for twelve hours, at which point they are guarded –

ELISE
With a LOT of STUFF.

EDDIE
We'll get to that.

SIMON
How much money do you need?

EDDIE
Thirty –

ELISE
Five million. Five hundred. Thirty five million five hundred.

SIMON
How do I know you're not going to rip me off and take the money?

EDDIE
You have my word.
He extends his hand.
SIMON shakes it.
Extended terrible sound effect noise.

Lights down.

SIMON *(in the dark)*

YOU'RE SO IMMATURE, KIMYA!

KIMYA *(in the dark, from the booth)*

I DON'T LIKE YOU!

Scene change.

The lights come up too fast, revealing the crew members placing the set for the casino again.

HOLLIS enters; he's supposed to be next to AMANDA, but she is in the completely wrong part of the stage, holding her script.

HOLLIS

He's gonna try something, I know it.

AMANDA *(reading from the script, in the wrong place)*

Enters. You're being paranoid.

HOLLIS moves quickly over to her as AMANDA, following the script, heads in the opposite direction.

HOLLIS

I'm not being paranoid. Eddie Seabreeze is always on a job.

He tries to stop her from moving, fails.

AMANDA *(stage whisper)*

Stop trying to touch me!

HOLLIS *(stage whisper)*

We're married, and you're doing the blocking wrong.

AMANDA *(stage whisper)*

I'm not doing the blocking wrong you're doing the blocking wrong!

HOLLIS grabs her script and flips it upside down.

Ohhh...

HOLLIS

I'm not being paranoid. Eddie Seabreeze is always on a job.

AMANDA

Exasperated. But no one could steal the jewels. They're in the vault.

HOLLIS

Yeah. The vault.

He snaps his fingers, or tries to, at the guards.

Hey Barry. Lou. Jerome.

GUARDS 1, 2, and 3 approach quickly.
HOLLIS has forgotten his line.

GUARD 1

Yeah Boss?

GUARD 2

What Boss?

GUARD 3

What up?

HOLLIS

Double the guards. And then double them again. And then double them an additional time. I want six times the guards.

GUARD 1

I don't know how I'm gonna find that many people on short notice.

HOLLIS

I don't care how you make it happen, just do it. All right?

GUARD 3 *(going off script)*

Whoah. Hold up. This has been bugging me. That's actually eight times the guards.
Everyone stares at him.
You said double it. And then double it again. And then double it an additional time. That's two times two times two – eight. Two cubed.

GUARD 2

That's been bothering me as well. If he's a casino boss, how does he not know basic math facts?

GUARD 3

Right? I mean this is obvious. Two times two times two – eight.

HOLLIS

I meant adding an additional shift!

GUARD 1

You didn't say that. You were totally unclear there. How am I supposed to follow orders if you're unclear? That puts a lot of pressure on me –

HOLLIS

Can we keep going please?!

AMANDA

I don't see that line anywhere.

HOLLIS

I know that's not my line! Triple the guard!

GUARD 1

Wait.

HOLLIS

Add more people at your discretion!

GUARD 3

We can do that.

The GUARDS exit.

AMANDA *(reading the script)*

Well I gotta get going. Tries to leave.

HOLLIS

Oh no. You're staying right by my side tonight.

AMANDA

Gulps.

Scene change. MUSIC CUE: the right one, this time.
EDDIE's hideout. Someone runs in with a sign that says EDDIE's hideout.
SIMON is sitting on BOOMHAISER's lap.
MO is trying to stretch, not doing well.
ELISE is eating cheez-its.
RONDO is staring directly at the audience, quietly hyperventilating.
KNUCKLES is blowing their nose.
SVETLANA is trying to pace in her heels.

EDDIE

I hear what you're saying, but we've been over this. It doesn't work that way. Boomhaiser applies for the job –

BOOMHAISER

Why do I have to apply for the job?

SVETLANA *(walking over to him)*

Because I am on computer hacking your credentials –

SIMON

And I'm just the purse.

BOOMHAISER *(walking to RONDO, putting a hand on her shoulder)*

What about Rondo?

Skipping Forward

EDDIE races through the rest of the line now.
Boomhaiser-applies-for-the-job!

BOOMHAISER *(fast)*
Why-do-I-have-to-apply-for-the-job?

SVETLANA *(walking over to him quickly)*
Because-I-am-on-computer-hacking-your-credentials!

SIMON *(Fast)*
And-I'm-just-the-purse!

BOOMHAISER *(fast)*
What-about-Rondo!
Everyone stares at RONDO. Does RONDO have a different line?

RONDO *(cry of anguish)*

Everyone looks at BOOMHAISER. Can he think of a different line?

BOOMHAISER *(painful)*
Good. Point.
KNUCKLES approaches BOOMHAISER quickly.

KNUCKLES *(this is her only line, it has to be it)*
Don't-look-at-me. I-need-to-help-Mo-in-the-vault.
MO stretches fast.

MO *(fast)*
This-whole-plan-is-terrible-man.
ELISE takes the center position.

ELISE
You're All. FORGETTING. One thing.
Pause.
Everyone looks at ELISE.
ELISE doesn't want to say it. But it's the only thing she can say. It's the next line.
…we need Boomhaiser outside…
Everyone is in pain now.

EDDIE *(wail of despair)*
I hear what you're saying. But we've been over this… It doesn't work that way… Boomhaiser applies for the job…

BOOMHAISER *(crying)*
Why do I have to apply for the job?!

SVETLANA *(crying)*
Because I am on computer hacking your credentials!

SIMON *(crying loudly)*
AND I'M JUST THE PURSE!

BOOMHAISER *(crying)*
WHAT ABOUT RONDO?!

RONDO *(extremely loud wail of despair)*

BOOMHAISER *(crying)*
GOOD POINT!

KNUCKLES *(crying)*
Don't look at me I need to help Mo in the vault!

MO *(crying)*
THIS WHOLE PLAN IS TERRIBLE MAN!
ELISE can barely get the words out.

ELISE *(crying)*
YOU'RE ALL FORGETTING ONE THING!!! WE.
horrible pause
NEED.
All the actors look as though they've been harpooned)
BOOMHAISER.
(don't say it! Please god don't say it!)
OUT-SIIIIIDE.
EDDIE can't take it. He runs off-stage, returns with AMANDA, snatches the script out of her hands and finds the right page. He brings it back onstage with him. Reads. Stares at ELISE.
Everyone turns to stare at ELISE.
EDDIE swings over to her on his crutches and points to the right spot in the script.

ELISE *(reading it from the script, ashamed)*
So that's settled.
Everyone slumps, realizing how simple the line was.
EDDIE tosses the script off-stage, staring at ELISE the entire time.

SIMON
So when do we start?

EDDIE
Well it starts… with Rondo.

Scene change. The gang leaves, except for RONDO, who puts on a fake sportcoat. It is about eight sizes too big.

Music underscores the whole rest of this part.

The GUARDS bring back the casino.

RONDO is left onstage.

RONDO stares directly at the audience. Terrified.

RONDO has frozen in place.

CHARMAINE sneaks out, and physically moves RONDO into position.

GUARD 2 is the dealer at a blackjack table. The table falls over anytime someone leans on it.

RONDO *(terrified whimper)*

….

GUARD 2

Here come the cards. You've won ten hands in a row! Lady Luck is smiling on you. And while I'm dealing right now, I'd like everyone to be aware of how smooth and calm I am under pressure, as if I were born for the spotlight. Of course, people like me never get the spotlight. We are mere servants. Well I say: NO MORE! I AM CAPABLE OF SO MUCH MORE THAN BEING A DEALER! I could be the hero, for instance, if someone was casting a play and wanted someone with a lot of talent they could cast me –

RONDO tries to say something –

What's that I can't hear you because you're terrible. Which is fine, I'm not jealous that you're in your role and I'm in my role, even though I am obviously the superior actor.

RONDO

…I win again… I guess I'm just lucky.

GUARD 1 and BOOMHAISER (dressed as a guard, approach)

GUARD 1

All right I think you've won enough.

BOOMHAISER

We'd like to speak with you.

GUARD 1

This way please.

RONDO can't move.

BOOMHAISER and GUARD 1 pick her up and move her to another part of the stage as a Crew Member runs in with a sign that says "HOLDING CELL."

BOOMHAISER

I'll take it from here, Barry.

GUARD 1 nods.

EDDIE *(on microphone)*

They'll be checking files on Rondo of course, and that's when –

SVETLANA enters opposite, walking quickly in her high heels, with her briefcase. She sets down the briefcase. It tips over. She struggles to open it.

Just like clockwork.

KNUCKLES enters as a postal worker, pushing a cart with a huge cardboard box on it. (MO is supposed to be inside the box, but they can't really fit in it.)
EDDIE turns to hiss a them "not yet!"
KNUCKLES turns around and pushes the cart offstage.

SVETLANA can't reach her briefcase. Her legs get wobbly when she stretches for it.
She grabs it. Part of it breaks off. She can't open it. At all. She shakes the briefcase. Nothing.
She waves it around, trying to get it open. Doesn't work.
She smashes it on the ground. Nothing. She pulls it up on the backswing, smacks herself in the head with it, and knocks herself unconscious.

She falls over.
Everyone stares at her body.
KNUCKLES pushes the cart back on to the sage – EDDIE hisses at them "not yet!" –
KNUCKLES pushes the cart off the stage.

GUARD 3 rushes over and drags SVETLANA off-stage.

BOOMHAISER

So um… This might be a good time to fill everyone in on my backstory –

GUARD 3 rushes in, wearing SVETLANA's wig and high heels, carrying her briefcase, and a script.

GUARD 3 *(in terrible Russian accent)*

Initiating hacking protocol now. Boop. Boop. Thing happening in computer.

GUARD 3 types on the briefcase as if it's a laptop.
KNUCKLES cautiously tries to enter, looks around, realizes they're early, and goes back again.

End of Excerpt.
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