

# Meeting Rooms and Managers

A Tabletop Script by Lily Miles

Dedicated to Ominous Players and Leagues of Shadows

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# Dramatis Personae

## Players (All Mythical Creatures of Some Kind)

### **Vedmad**

The Duty Manager and the brain behind the whole game. Vedmad is mostly just affectionately annoyed with his players' silliness.

### **Akani**

A sarcastic player, who likes to make decisions based on what would be fun.

### **Lugeret**

A silly player, who makes decisions based on what would be funny or annoying.

### **Thiecka**

A more sensible player, who tries to make smart decisions but gets roped in with the silliness at times.

### **Evashtzaj**

An excitable player, who just seems to want the game to be fun for everyone.

## Players' Characters (Interns)

### **Sarah**

Akani's character. A barbarian looking out for herself, Sarah says and does what she wants.

### **Noah**

Lugeret's character. A rogue used to getting his own way, Noah thinks he's charming but is just a bit dim.

### **Liam**

Thiecka's character. A sharp witted bard, Liam has a plan but isn't so sure about the chaos of his party members.

### **Emma**

Evashtzaj's character. An energetic druid, Emma looks out for the other players and takes their friendship to heart.



## Management

### **Ms Stanton**

The one who hired the interns, bringing them in to look for corruption in the company. Seems calm and collected but really very stressed.

### **Sir Robertus Albertus Alexander Cavanaugh, III aka Bob**

The Boss of the company and the villain of the show. Dramatic and over the top, he's an artificer set to rule the world.

### **Janice Matthews**

Bob's assistant, unimpressed and unbothered by his over-the-top-ness

### **Tanis Marks**

Bob's other assistant, unbothered and unimpressed by his dramatic-ness

## Finance

### **Jim Court**

Joint head of Finance, Jim doesn't take problems too seriously, as long as he'll make his money at the end of the day. He is very obsessed with money.

### **Cathy Lester**

Joint head of Finance. Slightly more clued on than Jim but also a bit more flighty about it all. Equally obsessed with money but less obvious about it.

### **Jessica East**

Calm and collected, most of the time. Suspicious of the people she works with, Jessica is part of a secret group with their own agenda.

## Human Resources

### **Peter Williams**

Cautious and nervous, wants everything to go okay. Technically in charge of HR but who really knows.

### **Sophie Peters**

Very stressed and overworked, Sophie could probably do with working in a different department.

### **William Sophos**

Probably the least chill member of Human Resources - though that might be because he's the newest and most out of control.

## Marketing

### **Adam Otherton**

Leader of the Marketing team, Adam is focused on stats and increasing functionality - even if it means betraying his company.

### **Ella Firth**

Slightly flighty but focused on her work, Ella is knowledgeable about all things marketing - including the shady things they shouldn't be doing.

### **Thomas Bria**

Loyal to Adam and wanting to get things sorted, Thomas is a bit of a suck up and jobsworth.

## Research and Development

### **Simon Stole**

Simon is annoyed by everyone he works for, although he does enjoy the job he does (mostly the explosions)

### **Eric Lome**

The one keeping R&D mostly fire-free, Eric isn't quite as sensible as he appears.

### **Jane Redd**

A confident and energetic member of R&D, Jane wants the company to succeed in the right way.

# Songs

**1.1 : A Roll of the Dice.** Introducing the rules of Dungeons and Dragons and the players.  
*Vedmad, Akani, Lugeret, Thiecka, Evashtzaj*

**1.6 : Where the Products Get Made.** R&D sings about what they do without ever really explaining what they do. *Simon, Eric, Jane, Emma*

**1.8 : The Sneaking Song.** The song where the characters sneak, interspersed with dialogue from different departments and nefarious deeds. Big multiplayer number, bit sea shanty-esque. *Sarah, Noah, Liam, Emma, Jim, Cathy, Sophie, William, Adam, Thomas, Simon, Eric*

**2.1 : Capitalists are Evil.** The villain song where he talks about how his evil plan is going to make him so much money. *Bob*

**2.4 : Betrayal Blues.** The players sing about feeling betrayed and not knowing what to do.  
*Vedmad, Thiecka, Lugeret, Evashtzaj*

**2.6 : I'll Be There For You.** A song about friendship and helping each other out. *Stanton, Liam, Noah, Emma. (Vedmad, Thiecka, Lugeret, Evashtzaj)*

**2.8 : Final Song.** The Final Song.

# Summary

## Act 1

### 1.1 - Meet the Players

Vedmad, Akani, Lugeret, Thiecka, Evashtzaj

### 1.2 - Let's Split the Party

Vedmad, Akani, Lugeret, Thiecka, Evashtzaj, Sarah, Noah, Liam, Emma, Stanton

### 1.3 - Money is the Root of Evil?

Vedmad, Akani, Lugeret, Evashtzaj, Thiecka, Sarah, Jim, Cathy, Jessica

### 1.4 - Resourceful Humans

Vedmad, Thiecka, Evashtzaj, Liam, Peter, Sophie, William

### 1.5 - Marketing is 70% More Annoying

Vedmad, Lugeret, Noah, Adam, Ella, Thomas

### 1.6 - This is where the fun (and explosions) happen

Vedmad, Evashtzaj, Emma, Eric, Simon, Jane, Akani, Lugeret, Thiecka

### 1.7 - Everyone has an Agenda

Vedmad, Akani, Lugeret, Thiecka, Evashtzaj, Sarah, Noah, Liam, Emma, Jessica, Peter, Ella, Jane

### 1.8 - Check those Stealth Rolls

Vedmad, Akani, Lugeret, Thiecka, Evashtzaj, Sarah, Noah, Liam, Emma, Jim, Cathy, Sophie, William, Adam, Thomas, Simon, Eric

### 1.9 - Reinventing the Wheel

Vedmad, Akani, Lugeret, Thiecka, Evashtzaj, Sarah, Noah, Liam, Emma, Bob, Stanton

## Act 2

### 2.1 The Chief Evil Officer

Vedmad, Akani, Lugeret, Thiecka, Evashtzaj, Sarah, Noah, Liam, Emma, Bob, Janice, Tanis

### 2.2 Let's Start a Rebellion

Sarah, Noah, Liam, Emma, Jessica, Peter, Ella, Jane, Stanton

### 2.3 Rumour Has It

Sarah, Noah, Liam, Emma, Jim, Cathy, Jessica, Peter, William, Sophie, Adam, Ella, Thomas, Simon, Eric, Jane, Bob, Janice, Tanis

### 2.4 Betrayal

Vedmad, Akani, Lugeret, Thiecka, Evashtzaj

### 2.5 Who's for a Coup?

Vedmad, Lugeret, Thiecka, Evashtzaj, Noah, Liam, Emma, Jim, Cathy, Jessica, Peter, William, Sophie, Adam, Ella, Thomas, Simon, Eric, Jane, Bob

### 2.6 Let's Get Down to Business

Noah, Liam, Emma, Stanton, (*Vedmad, Lugeret, Thiecka, Evashtzaj*)

### 2.7 The Boss Battle

Vedmad, Akani, Lugeret, Thiecka, Evashtzaj, Sarah, Noah, Liam, Emma, Bob, Stanton

### 2.8 Let's Wrap this Up

Vedmad, Akani, Lugeret, Thiecka, Evashtzaj

# Act 1

## 1.1 Meet the Players

Vedmad, Akani, Lugeret, Thiecka, Evashtzaj

	<i>(Lights up on Vedmad, looking annoyed.)</i>
Vedmad	We said we would start at 2. It is now half past and no one has shown up.
Lugeret	<i>(O/s)</i> I'm coming!
Thiecka	<i>(O/s)</i> Sorry, just having lunch!
Vedmad	Okay, it's fine, don't worry! Just turn up so we can start, where are the others?
Akani	<i>(O/s)</i> Sorry, just getting something sorted!
Vedmad	Could you please-
	<i>(Enter Evashtzaj - no I'm not going to tell you how to pronounce that. She is very clearly not human. I'm not going to say how she looks unhuman, it depends on the actor and what they have available. See, nice writer.)</i>
Vedmad	Oh, thank god.
Evashtzaj	Sorry, I'm late, Vedmad. Magic mirror wouldn't connect to the portal. Wait, where is everyone else? I thought I'd be the last here.
Vedmad	I also thought that, Evashtzaj.
	<i>(Enter Lugeret and Thiecka, also both looking unhuman, though a different kind of unhuman to Evashtzaj. They are both eating food.)</i>
Thiecka	Sorry, delivery just arrived.
Lugeret	You know how it is. Getting food by hippogriff is so unreliable, they forgot to check the mead was non- alcoholic.
Thiecka	And they delivered it to the next cave over first, it's a nightmare.
Vedmad	Yes, it's fine. I just wish you would tell me when things are running late.
	<i>(Enter Akani. You know the drill)</i>

Akani Hi everyone. Sorry I'm late, I had to get my character sheet!

Evashtzaj Oh

Thiecka Damn

Lugeret Character sheets!

*(The three of them run off. Vedmad puts his head in his hands.)*

Vedmad Please tell me you also remembered your dice, Akani.

Akani Oh, dice!

Evashtzaj *(She runs off)*

*(O/s) What was that?*

Akani *(O/s) I forgot dice!*

Thiecka *(O/s) Oh, yeah, I need those.*

Lugeret *(O/s) Me too!*

*(There is general shuffling and commotion as Vedmad sits, clearly frustrated and getting more annoyed as time passes. As he says the next bit, the other four re-enter)*

Vedmad Look, I know it's been a long time since we've played but you've all played before, you should know this. Lugeret, you own like 50 dice, how did you forget to bring any?

Lugeret Well, I just forgot. It's a bit weird, this game you've planned. I wasn't even sure we'd need dice?

Evashtzaj Yeah, are the rules going to be the same?

Akani What does this mean on my character sheet?

Lugeret Which one is the twenty sided dice again

Thiecka Could you please just explain?

*(SONG: A Roll of the Dice. Yep, I'm forgoing exposition to let a song explain the concept and rules of DnD. It should come in quite dramatically with Vedmad leading and the others joining in later on to briefly introduce the ways they like to play the game. Once the song is finished, everyone settles down and they are all a bit more aware and focused.)*

Vedmad Right, everyone ready now?

Players *(Enthusiastically)* Yes!

Vedmad So, let's begin. Welcome to Meeting Rooms and Managers I will be your Duty Manager today, your DM guiding you through trials and tribulations. In this game, you will find yourselves on the bottom rung of the ladder, trying to build your way up to the mysterious position of CEO, with the aim of overthrowing the current boss and taking over his company. Will you succeed in getting that raise that allows you to fly or will you be suspended from the highest window of the company?

Akani Offices really are dangerous places.

Evashtzaj I love when he goes all fantasy.

Vedmad At the moment, you are all interns, attempting to find your way in the world. You have just met and now it is time for your first task as members of this work force. Let's begin...

*(We transition to the next scene. I imagine each player's screen flickering and their characters taking their place, while Vedmad stays as himself for now. This effect will happen throughout the play, with characters occasionally flickering back to their players when the players have lines.)*

## 1.2 – Let’s Split the Party

Vedmad, Akani, Lugeret, Thiecka, Evashtzaj, Sarah, Noah, Liam, Emma, Stanton

*(In fade the four characters of the game. Vedmad is still on screen, looking expectant. There is a pause, then he sighs.)*

Vedmad                    Are any of you going to introduce your characters?

Thiecka                    *(O/s)* Oh, right!

*(Thiecka flickers back on screen. The previous line could have been said by Liam with Thiecka dubbing over for extra fun stuff.)*

Thiecka                    I’ll go first, shall I?

Vedmad                    Yes, thank you, Thiecka. Just, keep it brief, okay?

Thiecka                    Right, well...

*(Flickers back to Liam)*

Liam                        I’m Liam Smith. I’ve worked in three offices before this, but only as summer jobs. I am an absolute whizz with a photocopier, actually, if you put anything to do with printing in my hand, I can probably make some magic happen.

Noah                        Great. Uh, I’m Noah Thurffington. This is my first job ever, my parents insisted I get one if they were going to keep funding my lifestyle. I’m here to steal stationery and have a bit of fun.

Emma                        Oh, that’s not very good, is it? My name’s Emma Morris, I used to work as a florist but I thought it would be good in this day and age to get a job that’s more people focused.

Lugeret                    *(Flickering in)* Florists don’t work with people? *(Flicker out)*

Evashtzaj           *(Flickering in)* I'm not sure, I don't know how these fantasy jobs work.

Emma               *(Flickering in)* I still love plants, want to keep a few around the office and I just want to make a good impression on my first day.

Sarah               I'm Sarah Oldwich, I don't care about being here, I don't care if you like me. If you have a problem, I will fight you.

Emma               So lovely to meet you!

Lugeret           *(Flickering in. You know what, just assume they flicker in when talking)* Bit weird that name, Sarah? How'd you come up with that?

Akani               I know, it's got a h on the end! Means rage or something in old dwarvish.

Thiecka            You couldn't have come up with something a bit more fantastical?

Akani               Oh, what's yours? Liam?

Thiecka            Yeah! It's got two vowels next to each other.

Evashtzaj         Oh, so it's like your own name?

Lugeret            Well, what about Emma? Couldn't think of something more natural for the setting, had to go all steampunk on us!

Vedmad            Anyway!

*(They all look awkward and flicker back to their characters.)*

Vedmad            As you are all making your introductions, someone enters.

*(Vedmad flickers into Ms Stanton.)*

Stanton            Ahh, hello, you must be our new interns. My name is Ms Stanton. Before I give you your first task, does anyone want to bow out of the internship? This is your very last chance. (Beat) Good. Because this first task is very important, the entire company and all its workers are relying on you four. Their jobs and maybe even their lives depend on you.

Sarah               That seems like a lot of pressure.

Noah                I thought interns just took coffee orders and stole office supplies.

Stanton            You see, we have discovered evidence there is a spy among our ranks.

Sarah              I mean, it's probably Noah.

Stanton            No, we know it's none of you, it's your first day.

Liam                I dunno, he's very shady.

Noah                Shut up! I may be shady, but I am also lovable.

Vedmad            *(O/s) Make a persuasion roll, come on!*

*(There is a sound of rolling dice. I quite like the idea of a die appearing on screen and animatedly rolling about. If so, it lands on 19. Lugeret is very excited)*

Lugeret            I got 19! Almost perfect!

Noah                I am so charming.

Stanton            Well, I know you're trustworthy Noah, I've met your father.

Noah                Ha!

Sarah                That's not fair!

Stanton            Of course it is, his parents are trustworthy people, why shouldn't I believe everything he says?

Liam                At least he's not being paid more than we are.

Stanton            He's not? I'll have to change that, his mother is one of our major financial backers.

Noah                Thanks Liam!

Stanton            Anyway, I need the four of you to figure out who is selling company secrets.

Liam                Wait, what's the secret?

Stanton            If I told you that, they wouldn't be secrets.

Liam                True, but shouldn't we know the secrets, in order to investigate them?

Stanton            No.

Sarah                Unhelpful.

Stanton                    It's quite simple. I have narrowed it down to four departments. It's either someone from finance, Human Resources, marketing or research & development. They're the only ones who have knowledge of the...secret. They're the only ones who can leak it.

Evashtzaj                Sorry, what are those departments?

Lugeret                    Never heard of them before.

Vedmad                    Well, finance is the people in charge of money.

Thiecka                    They're all dragons?

Akani                      No, remember, it's fantasy, they're all those weird human creatures.

Thiecka                    Some of them could be dragons.

Vedmad                    They're not dragons! Anyway HR are the people who are meant to resolve all the problems.

Lugeret                    Right, so they're the best fighters, we'll have to be on our guard.

Evashtzaj                Everyone must be scared of them, if they resolve the fights, they'll be dangerous.

Vedmad                    Well...no, not quite. Anyway, marketing advertises things, they make people buy what the company sells.

Akani                      You said there was no magic in this game!

Vedmad                    No I didn't! And it's not magic, it's just convincing people to think and do what you want them to.

Thiecka                    Sounds like magic to me.

Vedmad                    Well, it's not!

Lugeret                    And Research and Development?

Vedmad                    Well, they research problems and develop solutions. It's quite simple.

Lugeret                    Huh.

Evashtzaj                Sounds a bit boring.

Vedmad                    Anyway, how are you going to solve this problem?

Noah Right, well, that's four departments and there's four of us. We'll have to each visit a different department.

Vedmad Wait, seriously? You're splitting the party?

Emma That makes most sense to me.

Vedmad You're joking right? All playing separately now, no interaction?

Liam Okay, so, Noah, you go to marketing, there's probably not much there you can steal.

Noah Fair enough.

Emma I'll go to R&D. I might have some knowledge there from my florist days.

Akani Will you?

Evashtzaj Who knows what a florist does? They make flowers, right?

Emma Liam, why don't you check out HR? With your experience in an office, you might be able to work things out.

Liam I dunno, I'm not sure HR actually does anything in an office.

Sarah What does that leave me?

Liam Finance. Try not to hit the people who pay us.

Sarah I make no promises.

Vedmad Wait, you're not honestly doing this? We've just started and you're not even going to be in the same scenes?

Sarah Everyone in agreement?

Liam Yep, this sounds good.

Noah I see no problems.

Emma Let's go!

*(Vedmad sighs and flickers back to Stanton)*

Stanton Excellent. I am very glad to hear it. Do report in with anything you discover, I'll be paying close attention to your progress.

*(Blackout)*

## 1.3 – Money is the Root of Evil?

Vedmad, Akani, Lugeret, Evashtzaj, Thiecka, Sarah, Jim, Cathy, Jessica

*(Lights up on Vedmad and Akani)*

Vedmad Right, so. You find yourself in the finance office. On your own, of course.

Akani Of course, we all went to different places.

Vedmad So, you are waiting. What do you do?

Akani Well, if there is no one about, I guess I'll investigate.

Vedmad Roll to see how well it goes.

*(Dice rolling sound and animation. It lands on a two)*

Akani Remind me how it works again?

Vedmad The lower the number, the worst you did.

Akani I got two. I'm not very good at this.

Vedmad So, you step into the room...

*(As he speaks, Akani flickers into Sarah)*

Vedmad ...looking around but as you try-

*(He flickers suddenly into Jim)*

Jim Hello, hello. Look, if you're here to talk about a raise, that'll cost at least £20, you need to go to HR for a cheaper rate.

Sarah No, wait, I-

*(Another screen appears with Cathy)*

Cathy If it's about pensions, we don't handle that, unless you have a couple hundred pounds you're willing to part with.

Sarah No, I'm-

*(Enter Jessica)*

Jessica                    Any problems with bonuses, talk to your line manager before coming to us and we'll run it through if approved.

Lugeret                    *(Popping in / heckling)* How are you doing all of these voices? *(Exits)*

Thiecka                    Are there any dragons?

Sarah                      No! I wanted to talk about

Jim                         If you need more room in your budget, there's no point talking to us, that needs to go through your boss and not bother us. We don't pay anything we don't want to.

Sarah                      Look! I'm here to talk about...

*(There is a pause as it becomes very obvious that she does not know what she's talking about)*

Sarah                      ...the new project.

Jim / Cathy  
/Jessica                    Oh!

Cathy                      What department are you from?

Sarah                      Well, I'm an intern. So...no department?

*(Popping in with small videos.)*

Evashtzaj                What department are we from?

Thiecka                    Surely even interns have departments?

Vedmad                    *(O/s)* Shh, none of you are here!

Thiecka                    Oh, sorry!

*(Screens leave)*

Jim                         Well, we're all excited about the project, of course we are.

Jessica                    We are?

Cathy                      Yes, it's going to make us loads of money.

Jim                    So, so much money.

Cathy                Why wouldn't we be excited, we're in charge of the money.

Sarah                I thought you just listed loads of ways you weren't in charge of money

Cathy                Oh, shush. If this project works, everyone will be much richer.

Jim                    Much, much richer.

Cathy                What's there to complain about?

Jessica              I mean, it will cost us a lot of money to run the project.

Sarah                Well, not if you get someone else to pay for it.

*(The others look very confused)*

Cathy                How would we get someone else to pay for it? Is that something we can do?

Jim                    Why did no one mention that before? We could make so much more money that way!

Jessica              How did you think of that? Wait, do you know something? What? No!

Sarah                I'm just wondering who else wants to know about the project?

Jim                    Everyone wants to know about the project. You know, because of the money thing.

Cathy                It's also very interesting, Jim!

Jim                    But mostly the money thing.

Sarah                Yes, it is. Really, really interesting, you know.

Jessica              I'm sorry, who did you say you were again?

Sarah                I'm no one, just an intern.

Jessica              Do you even know what the project is?

Sarah                No. That's why I'm here, I'm interested in how I might find out

the secrets of a super confidential project.

Vedmad (O/s) Make a persuasion roll.

*(Roll of the dice, it's a 1)*

Akani (O/s) Nat one. Great, literally couldn't be worse.

Sarah I don't want to cause any trouble, I just...

Cathy Whoever sent you, you can let them know everything is fine in finance!

Jim We're all looking forward to the money this project will get me.

Cathy Get us.

Jim Yeah, that as well.

Jessica Goodbye

*(End scene. As the screens fade away, we go straight into...)*

## 1.4 – Resourceful Humans

Vedmad, Thiecka, Evashtzaj, Liam, Peter, Sophie, William, Jessica

*(...Vedmad is back on screen, this time with Thiecka.)*

Vedmad            Right, same set up. You walk into Human Resources, and you see no one about.

Thiecka            Okay, I'm just going to yell out. If they deal with conflict all the time, they'll respect me being assertive.

Vedmad            Are you sure?

Liam                Hello, anyone there?

Vedmad            Not going to investigate? Maybe roll some dice and see how things go?

Thiecka            No, if there's a chance of me fighting these terrible warriors, I need to face it head on.

*(Vedmad rolls his eyes)*

Vedmad            So, you yell out and hear a scurry as someone runs towards you.  
*(Flickers out)*

*(Enter William, looking very haggard.)*

William            Hello, welcome to Human Resources. Did you have a problem? Oh, please don't have a problem.

Liam                No, no problem.

William            Oh, not a problem, good. Wait, that's not good, you must have something. A complaint, maybe? I don't handle complaints, one second.

*(More shuffling. Enter Sophie, looking even more freaked out.)*

Sophie             Hello, I heard you had a complaint?

Liam                No, no complaint.

Sophie Oh no. Oh no, no, no. If it's not a complaint, and it's not a problem, it must be an issue. Peter, I think we have an issue here.

Thiecka I thought they were terrifying warriors who resolved every issue with amazing fighting.

Vedmad I never said they resolved things through fighting.

Thiecka How else can you resolve issues?

*(Enter Peter, looking slightly more calm than his coworkers.)*

Peter An issue? What's the issue?

Liam No, I don't have an issue.

Peter See, I said it was fine. *(He freezes)* Wait, if you don't have an issue...

Sophie Or a complaint...

William Or a problem...

Peter Why have you come to Human Resources?

Liam I have... a query?

*(Beat)*

Peter Huh. We don't get many of those.

Sophie Do we even know how to deal with that? What is your query even about?

Liam Oh, it's about the new project.

William The new project?!

Peter Okay, no one panic.

Liam Yes, could you tell me about it.

Vedmad *(O/s)* Roll persuasion.

*(Dice roll, lands on 18)*

Thiecka *(O/s)* That's 18!

William Well, we can, I suppose. Not everything, some things are trade secrets, we'd get in so much trouble.

Peter We already get into a lot of trouble, people tell us a lot of things they probably shouldn't.

Sophie But, you asked so nicely, so, you didn't hear this from me, but the new project worries me. *(Her face drops)* Oh, no, I said it out loud.

Liam It does? Isn't it meant to be great?

Peter Well, yes, it's efficient, it's useful, it's helpful.

William But you know what happens when there is a new project, what does everyone have when they're suddenly given something useful?

Liam What?

Sophie They have complaints!

Peter They have issues!

William They have problems!

Peter And they bring them to us!

Liam I'm starting to sense a theme here.

*(Each of HR's following lines gets more and more rushed and panicked.)*

William Sure, it's great everyone has this new efficient product. But what does that mean for their breaks? Has anyone thought of that?

Liam Maybe if they have a more efficient tool, they'll have more free time?

Peter That's not how it works!

Sophie They roll this out company wide, we'll be swamped in here by complaints!

Peter Issues!

William And problems!

Sophie                    Maybe worse.

Liam                     There's something worse than a complaint, issue or problem?

Peter                    There is?! Oh no!

Evashtzaj              *(Appearing)* Wait, ask them how it will make things a problem!

Vedmad                *(O/s)* You're not here.

Evashtzaj              I know but I can tell Thiecka, can't I?

Liam                    How will it make things a problem?

William                Quicker, smoother. Come on, you're an intern you must know how much time will be saved in your job?

Sophie                 If everything is sped up, more work in less time

William                But still expected to do the same number of hours.

Peter                    It's just not going to work.

Liam                    Yes, but

Jessica                *(Entering)* Excuse me, I have a small complaint about someone who just wandered into our office.

*(HR tries to calm themselves down. Peter manages it, the others don't so much.)*

Peter                    Oh, no, that's no good. Sophie, you get the kettle on, William, grab some biscuits, we'll have a sit down and chat about this.

Liam                    Wait.

Peter                    You'll have to leave, I'm sorry.

William                This is quite serious, a complaint is a high level problem.

Liam                    I thought complaints were different to problems?

Sophie                 Now you're getting it.

William                Thank you very much.

Peter                    Stop by another time.

*(Their screens disappear. Liam looks very annoyed then shrugs and his screen turns off as well.)*

## 1.5 - Marketing is 70% More Annoying

Vedmad, Lugeret, Noah, Adam, Ella, Thomas

	<i>(In fades Noah.)</i>
Noah	Right, marketing. Going to schmooze up to them, charm them all and save the day.
Vedmad	<i>(Appearing on screen)</i> Didn't want me to set up the new scene? Considering you weren't meant to be in the other ones, I should really describe where you are.
Lugeret	Nah, who cares, let's just do this. I told you, lovable rogue right here, everyone is going to tell me exactly what I need to know
Vedmad	Okay. Make a dexterity check.
Lugeret	<i>(Clearly trying to be annoying)</i> A what?
Vedmad	<i>(Clearly being annoyed)</i> Just roll the twenty sided dice. I want you to see how good you are at agility in this moment.
Lugeret	What? Why?
Vedmad	Just do it.
	<i>(He rolls. It's a 2.)</i>
Lugeret	I got 2. What does that mean?
Vedmad	Right, as you walk into the marketing office, there is a step you haven't noticed. You miss it and fall flat on your face.
Lugeret	What?!
	<i>(Vedmad flickers out. After a beat, so does Lugeret)</i>
Adam	Do mind the step!
Noah	Why is there even a step there?
Adam	Well, market research suggests that 70% of people find that they perform better if they have a step down into their place of work, instead of a step up.

Noah                    Why not just no step at all?

Adam                    That is a good point, we shall have to rerun the study. Ella, would you be able to make sure we do that in the future?

Ella                      Of course Adam, sorry about this.

Adam                    Now, are you here with the results of the recent research into whether people engage more with text written in bold or written in italics?

Noah                    No, I don't have any research.

Thomas                  I have that for you boss

Adam                    Thank you, Thomas, what did you find?

Thomas                  Well, it seems people prefer things written completely in bold but will pay more attention to a single word written in italics.

Adam                    Hmm, not what I was expecting

Noah                    Look, I just wanted to ask you about the new project.

Adam                    AH, yes, new project. We're all very excited, and have already started marketing

Noah                    You've already started telling people.

Ella                      Only in the vaguest of senses.

Thomas                  But our research says that 60% of people are excited about the project, with 23% rating themselves as very excited.

Noah                    So is that 80% or 60% are excited?

Thomas                  Yes, exactly.

Adam                    Market research says that numTanyaal facts land 30% more if they are split like that.

Noah                    Great. So, you're all on board with the new project.

Thomas Yes, the social media campaign is well on the way.

Ella Keeping things vague of course.

Adam Exactly, just a few slogans. Start your day right, do things the right way, stuff like that.

Noah Oh, excellent, I can, of course, see how that relates to the project. And you're not worried it would spill some secrets?

Adam Oh no, it's fine.

Ella We ran everything past the head of marketing before we put it out.

Noah And, who's the head of marketing?

Adam I am.

Noah Right. Great. Anything else you can tell me about what you've been doing with the super secret project that no one outside this company is meant to know about.

Thomas No.

Noah Fine. Bye.

Ella Before you go, do you have time to answer a quick survey about our effectiveness as a marketing team?

Noah Not really.

Thomas It won't take long. Question 1, on a scale from 1 to 5, how would you rank your experience today?

Adam With 1 being a very enjoyable experience and 5 being a truly wonderful experience.

Noah How many questions are there?

Ella Forty seven.

Noah I'm leaving.

*(They flicker back to Lugeret and Vedmad.)*

Lugeret

You enjoyed that didn't you?

Vedmad

Oh very much so. Last up, R&D. Let's just get this over with.

*(Exeunt)*

## 1.6 – This is where the fun (and explosions) happen

Vedmad, Evashtzaj, Emma, Tanya, Simon, Jane, Akani, Lugeret, Thiecka

*(Evashtzaj appears on screen, looking excited.)*

Evashtzaj            Oh, it's been so long since I played. I hope something exciting happens. Oh, wait, I got stuck with the boring research department. Oh well, I suppose I'll be dealing with scholars and librarians.

*(We hear Vedmad's voice off-screen)*

Vedmad              You find yourself heading towards the R&D department. As you are walking, you hear an explosion.

*(We hear an explosion)*

Vedmad              And several screams.

*(We hear the R&D department scream. After a second, Tanya shouts, possibly synced to Vedmad speaking.)*

Tanya                *(O/s)* Okay, okay, everyone. Put it down, put it down.

Evashtzaj            How do you do those voices?!

Vedmad              What are you going to do?

Evashtzaj            I'm going to run towards the explosion!

*(Flickers into Emma, looking even more excited. Enter the R&D department.)*

Tanya                Hello! Welcome to R&D, I'm Tanya. This is where we produce all our fabulous products!

Simon                What can we help you with?

*(They all react as something explodes off screen. The R&D department watches with excitement and then takes notes.)*

Emma                I just want to know about the new project. As an intern, I thought the best way to find out was talk to the people who created it.

Tanya Pfft, it's not us who created it.

Jane Well, we designed it, and made it, and decided on the materials, and made it work.

Tanya But I wouldn't say we were the creators. If we had been it would have been cooler.

Simon Bigger

Tanya Bolder

Simon More on fire.

Tanya Completely on fire!

Jane We didn't really want it made.

Emma You didn't?

Tanya No. A thing like that is going to put us out of business!

Emma It's going to put the company out of business?

Tanya Oh, not the company. Place like this will do fine with a product like that. No, no, it's going to put me out of business. Me and my men.

Jane How do we keep going with a charcoal division with this in play? No more crushing and breaking rocks to see how well they work.

Simon Who's going to care about pot cleaners or nib maintenance once they have one of those things? I can't run hundreds of explosion simulators to test the new product.

Emma How do you simulate an explosion?

Jane You explode things.

Tanya Look, you said you're an intern but surely you realise how many jobs this is going to cut.

Emma You know, I do understand. I used to be a florist you know.

Akani (O/s) What does that have to do with anything?

Vedmad (O/s) Akani, you're not in this scene!

Akani (O/s) Sorry!

Jane Oh, yes, we all know about the big floristry crash of 02.

Tanya Look, all we want to do is make things, cause an explosion here and there... and everywhere... it's why we got into this job.

Simon Now we've got top brass breathing down our necks, putting us out of business. Getting onto us about OSHA compliance.

Emma Okay, that does sound really annoying. I think.  
*(Evashtzaj appears over Emma with the same confused expression)*

Evashtzaj Guys, I'm really stuck here, I don't understand anything about my department!

Akani *(fake gasp)* You mean your super floristry skills aren't helping? Shocker...

Lugeret Yeah, I really didn't get what was happening with those marketing people either! It seems like all they do is wear blazers and ask pointless questions.

Vedmad Seriously? I set up all of these scenes and all of these characters and you still don't understand what's going on? Do you know how much time I spent on worldbuilding? *(put-upon sigh)* Thiecka, you understood what was happening, right?

Thiecka *(looking awkward, not wanting to hurt his feelings)* I could probably do with a *bit* more clarification...

Vedmad *(rolling his eyes, looking generally very Done)* Okay, fine. Fine!  
*(Vedmad flickers back into Tanya. As she says her line, the interns flicker in over the players.)*

Tanya You seem a bit confused. Why don't we explain what we do here?  
***(SONG: What a Way to Make a Living)***

Evashtzaj That was really helpful, thanks Vedmad!

Thiecka

I never knew you could sing like that!

*(Vedmad looks very pleased with himself. As he is about to speak to accept the compliment, Akani cuts in)*

Akani

We still don't know anything about who's selling secrets though.

*(Vedmad's good mood is visibly ruined by her negativity)*

Lugeret

This investigation was a complete waste of time! We need to come back together and have a discussion.

Akani

See you back at intern central.

Vedmad

You know you don't have to go anywhere.

Akani

Sure we do, I need to get snacks.

*(She leaves. The others nod and leave as well.)*

Vedmad

For goodness' sake!

*(Blackout)*

## 1.7 – Everyone has an Agenda

Vedmad, Akani, Lugeret, Thiecka, Evashtzaj, Sarah, Noah, Liam, Emma, Jessica, Peter, Ella, Jane

	<i>(Lights back up on the players, all eating some sort of snack. Maybe one has a comically large slice of cake. Vedmad is fiddling with something off screen and not paying attention.)</i>
Evashtzaj	Oh, Lugeret, Thiecka, I was going to ask, how’s work going these days?
Lugeret	Yeah, pretty good. Having a bit of a problem with the elves though. They’ve got like five different words for taxes.
Akani	That’s annoying.
Thiecka	So annoying. Trying to explain what they have to pay while navigating if it's Astabi tax or Felloschin tax, it’s so weird.
Vedmad	Can we get back to the game?
Evashtzaj	How about you, Akani? How’s the new house going?
Akani	Alright, the dwarves are still working on building the house so I have to wait on that. You know, if they find jewels while digging the foundations, it’s theirs to keep?
Lugeret	That doesn’t seem fair.
Akani	Eh, they gave me a good rate, can’t complain.
Vedmad	Could we please?
Evashtzaj	It’s all about finding the balance between
Vedmad	Guys! You’re ruining my <i>(cuts himself off)</i> Can we just get back to things?
Evashtzaj	Yeah, sorry!
Lugeret	Sorry!
Vedmad	Okay, so. You all find yourselves back in the office. Is everyone sharing what they found?

Thiecka	Yep.
Lugeret	Yeah.
Evashtzaj	Sure!
Akani	I'm not.
Vedmad	Why?
Akani	Just decided not to.
Vedmad	Okay, so, other than finance, you all have an idea of what each department is working towards, either very excited or very annoyed with the new product. What do people want to do now?
Thiecka	Well, HR seemed to be willing to talk to me, before we got interrupted. Maybe if one of us went to them with a complaint, we'd be able to hear more?
Akani	How do we complain about something we know nothing about?
Thiecka	Good point.
Lugeret	Ooh, maybe we... go back... with a sword!
Evashtzaj	What?!
Lugeret	Yeah, we say "I've got an issue for you"! And then they have to tell us!
Thiecka	I don't think threatening our co-workers will help.
Akani	Do swords even exist in this game?
Lugeret	You have a point.
Evashtzaj	What we need is to talk to someone away from their group.
Akani	But how? We can only find them in their departments?
Vedmad	As you're saying this, you hear a knock on the door.
	<i>(The four players flicker into their characters, who look shocked.)</i>

Emma	Who's that?
Noah	Who knows we're here?

Sarah No one's knocked on the door before.

Liam This is our first day though.

*(Next two lines said o/s, potentially synced with Vedmad speaking.)*

Ella *(O/s)* Please let us in, we just need to talk to you!

Peter *(O/s)* It's about the project you were asking about!

Noah Okay, let them in.

Vedmad You open the door and in comes Jessica, Peter, Ella and Jane.

Akani Who?

Evashtzaj Do we know them? The way you said that made me feel we should.

Vedmad You met them all earlier.

Thiecka I don't remember the names.

Lugeret I'm sure I'd remember weird names like those.

Vedmad You would, if anyone had actually asked for the characters' names.

*(The others give general noises of understanding)*

Akani I mean, these business types are all the same.

Vedmad *(A little upset)* Wait, they are?

Akani Well, a bit. All those finance people being obsessed with money.

Vedmad They're not the same level of obsessed!

Thiecka And the HR people were all very stressed.

Vedmad They have a stressful job.

Lugeret And marketing people were all just annoying.

Vedmad Using statistics too much is not the same as being annoying!

Lugeret I mean...

Evashtzaj And the R&D department all

Vedmad Yes, I get it, the departments are all a little same-y! I was going for a thing, it clearly didn't work, can we move on!

Evashtzaj Okay... who's at the door

*(As Vedmad introduces the others, their videos appear on screen. Once all four appear, Vedmad flickers out.)*

Vedmad It's Jessica from finance, Peter from HR, Ella from marketing and Jane from R&D.

Emma Um, hi. What are you doing here?

Jane Sorry to bother you but...

Jessica We have something we think you should know.

Peter You were asking about the product? About who would be interested?

Ella Well, we couldn't say this in front of our bosses but... we think there's a conspiracy.

Liam You do?

Noah Tell us more.

Peter Can't say too much, it's our jobs on the line here.

Jessica Look, everyone in this company knows about the new product. They might not know what it is - I certainly don't - but everyone knows it's coming.

Jane And they all have their own plans for when it does.

Ella If I were you, I'd be looking into the people who do know what it is. The top dogs, the managers, the supervisors.

Jane Hey, even the CEO could be in on this.

Peter But you need to be careful. People know you're asking questions, they're going to be paying attention to you.

Liam Maybe we should discuss our plans somewhere else.

Emma I agree. Let's split, act like everything's normal, meet back in the eating room after our shifts are done?

Noah Sounds good, they won't suspect that.

Ella Best of luck.

Sarah Thank you. Right, let's go.

Vedmad *(O/s)* So, you leave one by one, acting natural and hoping not to arouse suspicion.

*(The interns leave one by one)*

Ella I hope they can figure things out.

Jane Me too. This company is a dangerous place to work.

Peter We should split too, people already know you came to me

Jessica earlier. It'll be fine, we just need to

Lugeret *(O/s)* Vedmad, you do realise you're just talking to yourself now,

Vedmad right? Oh, yeah... sorry!

*(Blackout)*

## 1.8 – Check those Stealth Rolls

Vedmad, Akani, Lugeret, Thiecka, Evashtzaj, *Sarah, Noah, Liam, Emma, Jim, Cathy, Sophie, William, Adam, Thomas, Simon, Tanya*

*(Vedmad fades back in, looking embarrassed. The rest of the players follow.)*

Vedmad                    So, what's the plan?

Thiecka                    We need to find out what the product they're making is.

Evashtzaj                I agree. But how do we do that?

Akani                      What if we went to the lady, the one who gave us the task in first place?

Lugeret                    *(Flicking through notes)* Stanton? We could break into her office?

Evashtzaj                Why break in? Can't we just talk to her?

Akani                      I mean, she could have told us stuff in the first place? I think we have to assume she's untrustworthy.

Thiecka                    Do we?

Lugeret                    Yes.

Thiecka                    Fine.

Evashtzaj                Wait, if we're doing this, why would we go to Stanton's?

Vedmad                    What do you mean?

Evashtzaj                We don't even know what her job is, do we?

Lugeret                    That's a good point, her office could be useless.

Akani                      So, where would be a useful place to go?

Lugeret                    I don't know. The boss' office?

*(Beat)*

Vedmad                    You're going to break into the boss' office?

Thiecka                    That's a great idea, thanks Vedmad!

Vedmad                    Wait, no...

Evashtzaj                If the DM suggested it, we should definitely do it.

Akani                      No need to do anymore planning.

Vedmad                    What? You're just going to walk up to the boss' office and look around.

Lugeret                    Don't be stupid. We're going to break in.

Vedmad                    Great.

Thiecka                    We'll have to go at night, otherwise he'll be there.

Lugeret                    I can pick the lock when we get there.

Evashtzaj                Oh, if we all eat these flowers, we'll be super sneaky! +10 to stealth!

Akani                      That makes perfect sense.

Vedmad                    *(There is a moment looking completely proud of themselves and Vedmad looking completely done)*

Fine. Let's get moving.

*(**SONG: The Sneak Song.** I'll be honest, I couldn't think of how to make this scene not super annoying and repetitive and I decided it should be a song. So I wrote a song. It's a big crowd number with a sea shanty vibe. Between verses and choruses, there is occasionally dialogue. The players flicker to the interns and begin...*

*[Interns]*

*It's time to sneak now off we go  
To find the treasure down below  
It's finally time that we all know  
Just what we're working for  
This company has lied to us  
So now it's time to break their trust  
By sneaking in late after dusk  
To the forbidden floor*

Vedmad	<i>(O/s) Okay, roll stealth</i>
	<i>(Dice rolls, they're all above 15.)</i>
	<p><i>[Sarah]</i>  <i>We'll take the path that's barely walked</i></p> <p><i>[Emma]</i>  <i>Around the back, beneath their thoughts</i></p> <p><i>[Liam]</i>  <i>And if we find where secrets talk</i></p> <p><i>[Noah]</i>  <i>Well, that's alright with me... hide</i></p> <p><i>[Jim]</i>  <i>You hear the news?</i></p> <p><i>[Cathy]</i>  <i>No, what'd they say?</i></p> <p><i>[Jim]</i>  <i>They're going to give our cheques away</i></p> <p><i>[Cathy]</i>  <i>I think it's time we made them pay</i></p> <p><i>[Jim/ Cathy]</i>  <i>The fight will come you see</i></p> <p><i>It's time to sneak now off we go</i>  <i>To find the cash and make it flow</i>  <i>Whoever said the boss should know</i>  <i>Just what we're working for</i></p>

	<p><i>[Interns / Finance]</i>  <i>This company has lied to us</i>  <i>So now it's time to break their trust</i>  <i>By sneaking in late after dusk</i></p>
	<p><i>To the forbidden floor</i></p>
Sarah	<p>They're stealing from the company?</p>
Noah	<p>Shh, they didn't spot us</p>
Liam	<p>Let's keep going</p>
	<p><i>[Sophie]</i>  <i>Make your complaints and issues known</i></p> <p><i>[William]</i>  <i>And make us deal with them alone</i></p> <p><i>[Sophie]</i>  <i>So if you ever make it home</i></p> <p><i>[William]</i>  <i>Your problem will be us</i></p> <p><i>[Noah]</i>  <i>What's going on?</i></p> <p><i>[Liam]</i>  <i>Just keep it down</i></p> <p><i>[Sarah / Emma]</i>  <i>They cannot know that we're around</i></p> <p><i>[Sophie / William]</i>  <i>Break all the problems to the ground</i>  <i>They have complained enough</i></p>

	<p><i>It's time to sneak now off we go To make it so nobody shows An issue that the boss lets grow That's what we're working for</i></p> <p><i>[Interns / Finance / HR] This company has lied to us So now it's time to break their trust</i></p>
	<p><i>By sneaking in late after dusk To the forbidden floor</i></p>
Emma	Does everyone here have a secret plan?
Liam	Shh, someone is coming
Vedmad	<i>(O/s) Roll stealth again</i>
	<i>(Dice rolls, mostly 12-16 but one 7)</i>
	<p><i>[Adam] I think somebody else is here</i></p> <p><i>[Thomas] They'll hear the secrets we hold dear</i></p> <p><i>[Adam] So maybe they should live in fear Of our plans unfolding faster</i></p> <p><i>[Thomas] It doesn't matter, I'm quite sure There's nothing they can do no more</i></p> <p><i>[Adam / Thomas] They won't stop us before We tell our other master</i></p>

	<p><i>It's time to sneak now off we go To where the money grows and grows This company should know its foes Are what we're working for</i></p> <p><i>[Interns / Finance / HR / Marketing] This company has lied to us So now it's time to break their trust By sneaking in late after dusk To the forbidden floor</i></p>
Sarah	They're the spies

Liam                      We don't know that yet

Noah                      We don't know anything

Emma                      We have to keep going

Interns                    *[Tanya]  
Raze it all*

*[Simon]  
Start a fire*

*[Tanya / Simon]  
Let them see what we desire*

*[Simon]  
Let their leaders*

*[Tanya]  
All expire*

*[Tanya / Simon]  
Until they do what we demand*

Oh. God.

*[Finance / HR / Marketing / R&D]  
It's time to sneak now off we go  
To dangers that only we know  
The management have got to go  
That's what we're working for*

*[All]  
This company has lied to us  
So now it's time to break their trust  
By sneaking in late after dusk  
To the forbidden floor*

Vedmad

*(O/s) You've arrived.*

*(Blackout)*

# 1.9 - Reinventing the Wheel

Vedmad, Akani, Lugeret, Thiecka, Evashtzaj, Sarah, Noah, Liam, Emma, Bob, Stanton

	<i>(The screen stays dark. Through the blackout we hear...)</i>
Vedmad	<i>(O/s)</i> As you creep into the office, listening for anyone who might find you. You hear a voice that you recognise.
	<i>(Enter Stanton and the Boss)</i>
Stanton	Sir, I just don't understand why you're not more concerned about this? We have clear evidence that someone is telling our competitors about the new product, they even have a few of them! Why doesn't this matter to you?
The Boss	Ms Stanton, I can understand your concern but everything will work out in the end.
Stanton	Sir, I know the product is good but if all our competitors get hold of it, it could be the end of this company.
The Boss	Oh, you really don't have faith in our workers, do you?
Stanton	That's not what I meant, sir. I just
The Boss	Tell you what. Let's take a break, we'll come back tomorrow. If you're still stressed then, I'll give things another look.
Stanton	Sir, it could be too late then. My interns are already investigating, they might have already found something, they could be in danger!
The Boss	Might they now? I'm sure they're fine, they know what they agreed to. Now, let's end it for tonight.
Stanton	But
The Boss	Let's go, Ms Stanton.
	<i>(The two of them leave.)</i>

Vedmad *(O/s)* They're gone, the door left open. What are you going to do?

Noah                    We've come this far, let's go in.

Emma                    Right then, let's investigate.

*(They all roll their dice and shift into the players. Vedmad appears alongside them)*

Evashtzaj              I got a 4, damn.

Akani                    14, anyone do better?

Lugeret                 No, 12.

Thiecka                 18! Yes!

Vedmad                 Okay, you look around, scanning the office, searching for anything. Nothing seems to appear, until

Liam                     Hey guys, look at this!

Sarah                    What is it?

Liam                     I'm not really sure.

Vedmad                 What you've found is a strange invention. A bit like a pencil or quill that you are used to but, there's no nib or charcoal on the end you would write with. Just a small button.

Liam                     I'm going to click it.

*(He clicks it)*

Vedmad                 A nib appears. Still no ink though.

Sarah                    I'm going to write with it.

Vedmad                 You take it off him and try to write. It's smooth, the ink coming from within the device.

Sarah                    This is the new product.

Emma                    What is it?

Vedmad                    This is a pen.

Players                    Wow...

Lugeret                    Your imagination is wild sometimes!

Evashtzaj                How did you come up with this?

Noah                        Wait, all of this for a writing tool? I don't understand.

Liam                        No, I do. Think about it. The R&D department were worried they wouldn't need to make pencils or quills anymore!

Sarah                        Why would you need ink pots if the ink is in the pen?

Liam                        Exactly, this will revolutionise how we work!

Noah                        That was what marketing said. Start your day off write! It's all about writing!

Sarah                        So, how does this help us? Even knowing the product, we don't know who the spy is.

Emma                        Stanton said there was clear evidence of the leak. It must still be

Vedmad                    here. Roll investigation, looking for specifics now.

Emma                        I'll check the desk.

Noah                        I'll help you.

Vedmad                    Right, roll with advantage

Evashtzaj                First one was a 6.

Lugeret                    Roll again, roll again!

Evashtzaj                17!

Thiecka                    Get in!

Vedmad

You look through the desk, checking different drawers when you find it a clear document with all the notes of the pen. What it does, how it works and when the company is going to start sales. It's addressed to the CEO of your biggest competitor, there is no signature.

Noah	What do we do with this?
Liam	Wait, what's it written in? In ink?
Emma	Yeah, looks like it. Why?
Liam	Are there blotches? Stains where the ink ran out?
Noah	No. It's all very...smooth.
Liam	This was written with a pen.
Emma	Only someone with access to the new product could be a spy.
Liam	The others were right, this isn't some employee selling secrets, it's someone in management.
Noah	But who?
The Boss	<i>(O/s) At least you're finally asking the right questions.</i> <i>(Re-enter the boss, flickering in over Vedmad. He is standing dramatically, hands hidden.)</i>
The Boss	Unfortunately, your timing is a bit off. <i>(He pulls out a gun. The others don't react.)</i>
Sarah	What is that?
The Boss	This little thing? Our R&D department made it, fascinating technology. Causes miniature explosions that send projectiles hurtling at you faster than sound. I just have to pull a trigger.
Thiecka	That's so cool.
Akani	Did you make that up?
Vedmad	I did, it's like a fantasy equivalent of a bow and arrow!

Akani	Amazing!  <i>(The players and Vedmad flicker back into their in-game characters.)</i>
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The Boss                    When Stanton brought you in to investigate the corruption, I didn't think there was any risk. Now I see I underestimated you. Oh well, I won't do that with the next group of interns.

Vedmad                      *(O/s) He is advancing upon you getting ready to fire, when-*  
  
*(Something starts making a noise, possibly the sound of wolf howling. The interns and boss freeze in place and Vedmad appears, with the players flickering in after his line.)*

Vedmad                      Oh, shoot, that's my alarm! Sorry guys, I have to go.

Evashtzaj                    What?

Vedmad                      I did say I couldn't stay late.

Akani                        You can't go!

Vedmad                      It's a full moon tonight, I can't exactly stay.

Lugeret                      When are we going to play again?

Thiecka                      You can't just leave it like that!

Vedmad                      I'm really sorry, I'll send a raven, we'll reorganise.

Evashtzaj                    Wait, no!

*(Vedmad leaves)*

Akani                        Bloody werewolves

*(Blackout, end of act 1)*

# Act 2

## 2.1 The Chief Evil Officer

Vedmad, Akani, Lugeret, Thiecka, Evashtzaj, Sarah, Noah, Liam, Emma, Bob, Janice, Tanis

*(Lights up on the four players, looking very impatient.)*

Thiecka                    We said we would start at 2, it's almost half past now.

Lugeret                    Where is he?

Akani                        This is really not on, I can't believe him.

Evashtzaj                At least it's a new moon at the moment, he won't be leaving early again.

*(Enter Vedmad, holding coffee.)*

Vedmad                    Hey everyone, sorry, didn't get much sleep last night. Had all the family round for the new moon. How is everyone? Been a while since we played.

Akani                        It's been two months!

Thiecka                    You left us on a cliffhanger!

Lugeret                    How could you do this to us?!

Vedmad                    Okay, calm down, didn't realise you cared so much.

Evashtzaj                Ugh, you are so annoying.

Akani                        Can we just get started?

Vedmad                    Okay, do we not want to recap what happened last time?

Thiecka                    Oh, I remember. We broke into the boss' office, we discovered the fabulous pen everyone is obsessed with

Lugeret                    Amazing idea by the way, I still love that.

Thiecka                    -then, the boss shows up and points some magic exploding metal thing at us and then you ended it!

Akani                    With us about to die!

Vedmad                 Well, let's jump straight in then. So, the boss is pointing his gun at you...

*(The boss and interns come in, holding the exact same poses they froze on before.)*

Vedmad                 What are you going to do?

Noah                     Look, look, we don't want any trouble.

Emma                    You hired us, didn't you? Surely you want us here?

Sarah                    Why would you sabotage your own company?

The Boss                Sabotage? Ha, oh you know nothing. Do you even know who I am?

Liam                     You're the boss, the CEO, right?

The Boss                My name is Sir Robertus Albertus Alexander Cavanaugh the Third, Chief Executive Officer of this company.

Lugeret                 Seriously?

Vedmad                 What?

Lugeret                 Could have come up with a more fantastical name.

Evashtzaj              Little bit boring for the final boss.

Vedmad                 Fine.

The Boss                My name is Sir Robertus Albertus Alexander Cavanaugh the Third, Chief Executive Officer of this company, though these days most people know me... as Bob.

Akani                    Ooh, that is so cool.

Thiecka                 What a weird name, did you just make that up?

Sarah                    Look, Bob, maybe there is something we can do? An arrangement we can come to?

Liam                    We don't really know anything about... anything. We just know that people will want this product.

The Boss                Yes, they will, won't they. And when they do, that's when the fun begins. The ink in those pens is enchanted, anything written with them produces a copy, here in my office.

Liam                    So

The Boss                So if my competitors start using them, which they will, I have a direct link to all their plans.

Lugeret                That's incredible.

Akani                    What class is he? I want to play it.

Vedmad                He's an artificer.

Players                Oooh.

The Boss                So, you wonder why I would sabotage my own company. I'm not, but my competitors are sabotaging theirs.

*(SONG: The Capitalists are Evil Song. I mean, that's the general gist of the song. This guy is a dick and he's going to sing about it. As he comes to the end of the song, he laughs maniacally.*

*As he's laughing...)*

Noah                    I think we need to run.

Liam                    Agreed, we can't handle this on our own.

Sarah                    Every man for themselves.

Emma                    Run!

*(Exit the interns. Bob continues laughing until he realises they're gone.)*

The Boss                Oh, it seems they're getting away. No worries. Janice! Tanis!

*(Enter Janice and Tanis, looking very bored.)*

Janice                    Yes, sir?

The Boss                    Make a note in my schedule. I need to make those interns pay.

*(Bob laughs manically. Janice is unimpressed.)*

Tanis                        Okay. You've got an opening at 2:30 tomorrow, shall I pencil it in?

Janice                        Otherwise it will have to wait until next week.

The Boss                    What? Oh, no, you misunderstand. I don't want to take a specific *time* to crush all their hopes and dreams, I just want it to be a priority.

Janice                        You have a meeting with the Department Heads tomorrow, shall I add it to the agenda?

Tanis                        Or I can put it on the staff bulletin?

The Boss                    Hmm... no. Maybe it's better if we don't get anyone else involved. These interns don't have anyone extra in their corner. Why should I?

Tanis                        Because you're evil, sir?

The Boss                    A well made point. Come on, let's sabotage some plans.

*(Exit Bob, evilly laughing. After beat, exit Janice and Tanis, evilling sighing.)*

## 2.2 Let's Start a Rebellion

Sarah, Noah, Liam, Emma, Jessica, Peter, Ella, Jane, Stanton

*(Lights up on the interns running frantically. I don't know, maybe they're miming it and their screens are rushing across the screen. They are very, very scared. After a few moments of this, the secret group enter and the interns run to them.)*

Emma                    Oh...my...god...

Liam                    You would not believe what we just found out.

Peter                    Are you okay?

Noah                    You were right!

Ella                    I like when that happens. Wait, what was I right about?

Sarah                    About there being a massive conspiracy and the entire company being in danger?

Ella                    Oh, maybe not so happy about that.

Emma                    The CEO is evil!

Jessica                    What, Bob? He's not that bad, just a bit dramatic.

Liam                    He's attempting to use corporate espionage within his own company in order to take over rival companies.

Noah                    Also, he has weird magic things.

Emma                    He threatened us with a gun!

Peter                    What's a gun?

Emma                    I don't know, apparently R&D made it.

Jane                    It's actually really cool, we spent a lot of time on it.

Sarah                    Why would you make something like that?

Jane                    Bob asked us to. He's a really nice guy.

Sarah Agree to disagree on that one.

Peter Tell us what you found out.

Liam Look, we don't want to get you into any trouble. If we tell you this, it's your jobs on the line.

Emma We're just interns, we'll be able to find other jobs.

Jane Though it might be a problem if you get shot by a gun.

Sarah Again, why would you invent something like that?

Jessica Look, we're in this now. We brought this problem to you, it's only fair we follow it through.

*(There's a loud knock)*

Noah Who was that?

Peter I don't know, who normally knocks on your door?

Noah So far, just you. We've only worked here a day!

Liam I think we just need to open it.

Ella You can't do that.

Liam It worked last time!

Stanton *(O/s)* I do have a key, I can just let myself in.

Emma That's a good point.

Peter What do we do?

Jessica She's management, she could be evil.

Sarah She could. But I don't think we have any choice but to let her in.

Stanton *(O/s)* You need to trust me, I'm on your side.

Sarah I'm letting her in.

*(Enter Stanton, looking worried.)*

Stanton            Are you all okay?

Noah                We're fine... what do you care?

Stanton            I never wanted any of this to happen. I brought you in to stop the corruption, not be attacked by it.

Jane                Look, we all want the company to succeed but not like this.

Jessica            What do you suggest we do?

Stanton            Nine of us, against the entire company?

Emma                With four of us being interns.

Stanton            I don't know what we can do but we need to stop this.

Liam                Wait. It's not nine of us against the whole company.

Noah                Um... *(counts the people in the room)* yes it is.

Liam                No, it's nine of us against the corruption in the company. But every department has their own problems, all have reasons to bring Bob down.

Stanton            Yes! Finance is constantly complaining about pay, HR... you're always stressed about the problems being brought to you, marketing... I swear they're selling secrets on the side... and R&D have been complaining for months about the new product and you don't even know what it is!

Liam                Exactly! If we get all of the departments to rebel, not against the corruption but just to rebel...

Emma                He might be able to take down our rebellion, but five at once?

Sarah                With everyone fighting and arguing, he'll have to bow down and ask for help.

Stanton            But it's so risky!

Noah                It is. But it's a risk we have to take.

Jessica

Are you with us?

*(Beat)*

Stanton

Yes! I'm with you.

Emma

Right, I think it's time we spread some rumours.

*(Exeunt.)*

## 2.3 Rumour Has It

Sarah, Noah, Liam, Emma, Jim, Cathy, Jessica, Peter, William, Sophie, Adam, Ella, Thomas, Simon, Tanya, Jane, Bob, Janice, Tanis

*(So, this is a sort of complicated scene but everything flows in a single direction. There are only ever two or three on screen at once but different people are constantly entering and exiting with a lot of information being thrown around. We start with just Emma on screen but soon we have Tanya and Simon enter.)*

Emma                    Oh, hey! Did you hear the news?

Tanya                    News, what news?

Emma                    Oh, I heard the product's going to be launched in a couple of days, production's going to have to go mad on it. You guys didn't know about that?

Simon                    You're kidding right?

Tanya                    They decide to do that and not tell us?

Simon                    Where did you hear this?

Emma                    Oh, I was in the head office earlier, Bob wanted to talk to the interns about how we could help.

Simon                    I can't believe he would do this to us.

Tanya                    We won't let him. Thanks for telling us, Emma.

Emma                    No problem, happy to help!

*(Exit Emma, enter Jane)*

Tanya                    Can you believe this?

Jane                      Believe what? What's happened?

Simon                    The new product is being launched, like, today!

Jane                      Today? That doesn't sound right.

Simon I know. This must mean they're shutting down the other R&D divisions.

Tanya It must do, that means we'll be losing our jobs.

Jane If they're doing that we need to be ready.

Simon Let's go, they're not getting away with this.

*(Exit Simon and Tanya, enter Ella)*

Ella Did they believe it?

Jane Even better, they think we're losing our jobs.

Ella Oh, excellent. Well, not excellent, you losing your job, you know what I mean.

Jane You need to calm down. Here comes your lot, I better run.

*(Exit Jane, enter Adam and Thomas.)*

Adam Ella, do you have the stats you were working on?

Ella Oh, yes, I have this. It seems that reports from different agencies suggest there is a 54% chance that the marketing wanted on the new product will be a silent campaign.

*(Beat.)*

Thomas I'm sorry?

Adam We don't do silent campaigns.

Ella Well, you know, don't advertise and then suddenly launch and it's everywhere. It's been very successful in the past.

Thomas What?! They can't get away with that.

Adam They don't decide how the marketing works, we do. I do!

Ella I don't know sir, this is just what the data suggests.

Adam I can't believe this.

Thomas                    Oi, you!

*(Enter Noah. Ella looks terrified and runs off.)*

Thomas                    You know management people, right? Tell them, we're not going to stand for this.

Adam                      If they think they can pass our jobs on to someone else, they've got another thing coming.

Noah                        Um, okay?

Adam                        We need to get on. Ella, you... where's Ella?

Thomas                    Did they already get rid of her? They can't just fire her under our noses, that's not on!

Adam                        I'm in charge of marketing, I'm the one who gets to fire Ella! *(They run off, Noah looks very confused.)*

Noah                        I can't actually tell if this is going well or not.

*(Enter Liam)*

Liam                        Are they angry?

Noah                        Oh, definitely. Just maybe not about what we wanted them to be.

Liam                        It doesn't matter, as long as they're angry at the people in charge, it all works out for us.

Noah                        That's true. I just wonder how ethical it is for us to decide to destroy an entire company just to get the CEO's attention.

Liam                        Does it really bother you?

Noah                        Nah, I think it's quite funny really.

Liam                        Ugh, go away.

*(Liam shoos Noah offstage and William and Sophie enter.)*

William                    Ooh, Liam, lovely to see you again. Got time for a cuppa?

Liam                    Sorry, can't stay too long, we're having a few problems in the Intern department. Do you know how many complaints we've been getting? It's a real issue, people wanting us to pick up their slack.

Sophie                 What do you mean?

Liam                    Well... look, I didn't tell you this but... it seems everyone has suddenly been given loads of extra work to get the new product launched.

Sophie                 They've been given... more work?

Liam                    Yeah, which is causing them issues so we interns have to help out, share the load - but anyway, I didn't mean to come to you with my complaints.

William                \*gasp\* Complaints??? You have complaints?!

Liam                    No, no, it's fine, just a few problems coming from

William                Problems now? Oh, this gets worse by the minute!

Sophie                 And you said issues earlier. Oh no, what are we going to do?!

William                Thank you for bringing this to our attention but we need to go. We need to find Peter.

*(Good news, Peter enters. Liam nods at him and works*

Peter                    *off*) What's going on, what's the panic?

William                Peter! I think they're launching the product soon.

Sophie                 Possibly even today.

Peter                    Surely they would have told us.

Sophie                 I don't know that they would. Maybe they decided to launch it and just have everyone else deal with it.

William                Which means we have to deal with it!

Sophie                 What are we going to do?

Peter                   It's okay. We'll just have to take our issues to management.

*(Beat)*

Sophie                 We can do that?

Peter                   Yeah, of course. We get everyone else's complaints, so we take our complaint to the boss.

William                You're right! And, hey, no one knows complaining better than we do!

Sophie                 Now instead of problems coming to us, we'll just pass them on to someone else!

William                Great idea, Peter! Thank you!

*(William and Sophie run off. Enter Jessica.)*

Jessica                They're very easily agitated your lot, aren't they?

Peter                   We deal with a lot. How do you think yours will take it?

Jessica                Oh, it'll be easy. One mention that they might get less money and they'll be up in arms.

Peter                   I hope so. Things seem to be going okay so far but if Bob finds out,

Jessica                we It's fine. Trust me.

*(Peter doesn't look convinced but leaves. Enter Jim and Cathy.)*

Jim                     Ah, how are things going? Is this new product going to make us loads of money?

Jessica                Apparently not.

*(Record scratch moment)*

Cathy                  What do you mean?

Jessica                Apparently, because the patents belong to Bob personally and not the company, none of the profits from the new product will be shared about.

Jim                   What?

Jessica               We don't make any cash from this.

Cathy                 What?! Go and check that! I am not happy!

Jim                   They can't do this, you need to go and tell them they can't do this! Go!

*(Exit Jessica.)*

Cathy                 What are we going to do about this? How could this happen?

Jim                   I bet I know. Remember that intern that was poking her nose around.

*(Enter Sarah)*

Jim                   You!

Sarah                 Hmm, me?

Jim                   Did you know about this? Was this why you were asking all those questions the other day?

Sarah                 Well, a little bit. Management just wanted

Cathy                 We don't want to hear it. You tell management that, no matter what they think, they are not getting their hands on our money.

Jim                   We worked for this and we are getting paid. Properly

*(Exit Cathy and Jim in a huff.)*

Sarah                 Well, that was pretty easy.

*(Enter Bob, with Janice and Tanis)*

Bob                   Yes, it was rather.

Sarah                 \*Gasp\* What are you doing here?

Janice                You're his 2:30 appointment.

Tanis                 I have it scheduled right here.

Bob I've come to make you a little offer. Did you really think I wouldn't know what you were planning? That your little coup would just go over my head?

Tanis It didn't even go under his nose.

Janice It was the first place we looked.

Sarah Well, that's what we were hoping. It's not like you can stop us.

Bob	Oh, I'm not going to stop you Sarah, nor are you going to stop me. I think you're an intelligent girl, you know the smart thing is to work with me. Get a permanent position, the trust of the boss, more money. Think about it. Help me and help yourself or... you could help some interns you barely know. That's my offer, the choice is yours.
	<i>(Exit Bob. Janice and Tanis continue doing admin-y stuff. Sarah looks annoyed.)</i>
Sarah	Did you want something?
	<i>(They look up, still monotonous.)</i>
Janice	No.
Tanis	You should probably accept the offer though.
Janice	It will be a lot less paperwork for us if you do.
	<i>(Exit Janice and Tanis. Sarah's face shifts into a smirk.)</i>
Sarah	It's certainly an interesting offer.
	<i>(Blackout)</i>

## 2.4 Betrayal

Vedmad, Akani, Lugeret, Thiecka, Evashtzaj

*(Lights up on the players. They're all looking a bit shocked and annoyed, while Akani looks unbothered.)*

Thiecka            You have to be joking, right?

Akani             What?

Thiecka            You don't honestly plan on betraying us?

Akani             Well, why wouldn't I? I don't have any reason to be loyal to you.

Evashtzaj         But, we're your friends, your allies!

Lugeret            Your party!

Akani             I mean, in real life, yeah. But in character, I don't know any of you. My only aim is to get further in the company.

Lugeret            It's not exactly in the spirit of things, splitting off from the rest of us.

Akani             I'm making decisions that my character would make. Just because you don't like them doesn't make it bad playing.

Evashtzaj         This is ridiculous. Vedmad, tell her!

Vedmad            I'm staying out of this, players can make whatever decisions they want.

Thiecka            What? You were so against us splitting the party last time. Now someone wants to actively go against the party, you

Vedmad            Look, she can do whatever she wants, it's just a game.

Evashtzaj         I can't believe it.

Akani             Look, if you honestly have a problem with me doing this, just tell me.

Evashtzaj         I have a problem with you doing this.

Akani             Oh, get over yourself

Vedmad Look, you don't even know about this

Lugeret Yes, we do, I just saw it happen.

Vedmad No, I mean, your characters don't know, you can't be angry about it, in-game.

Evashtzaj I'm not angry about it, in-game, I'm angry in person!

Akani Look, if it matters so much, then do something about it. Maybe your character overheard, huh? What's she going to do?

Evashtzaj I'll tell you what she'll do.

Vedmad If you're going to fight, we need to roll initiative.

Evashtzaj Oh, shut up. *(To Akani)* I'm going to tell everyone, then they'll know you're a backstabbing traitor and no one will talk to you and you'll lose your job.

Akani Yeah, because they'll believe you over me.

Thiecka Actually, we probably will.

Lugeret You have been saying you're out for yourself the whole time.

Akani Fine. If you're going to be angry at how I play the game, maybe I should leave.

Evashtzaj Fine.

Akani Fine!

*(Akani storms off)*

Vedmad Wait, what just happened?

Thiecka We just...lost a player.

Lugeret Should we stop?

Vedmad I'm sure she'll come back. Won't she?

*(**SONG: Betrayal Blues.** The players sing about feeling betrayed and not knowing what to do. Possibly Vedmad brings in a small reprise of A Roll of the Dice, singing about how this isn't the way the game should have gone.)*

## 2.5 Who's for a Coup?

Vedmad, Lugeret, Thiecka, Evashtzaj, Noah, Liam, Emma, Jim, Cathy, Jessica, Peter, William, Sophie, Adam, Ella, Thomas, Simon, Tanya, Jane, Bob

*(Lights up on all the workers, holding signs and placards and yelling. Even as the following lines are said, there should be some general grumbling in the background.)*

Jim                    Give us our money!

Tanya                Don't take our jobs!

William             Delay the product!

Cathy                Launch the product!

Adam                Change the marketing!

Sophie              Reduce our workload!

Simon                Increase our workload!

Thomas             Don't fire us!

Tanya                Rehire us!

*(These all begin to overlap and the workers' screens get smaller as Vedmad, Lugeret, Thiecka and Evashtzaj enter.)*

Vedmad             So, you arrive and everyone is yelling. What are you going to do?

Evashtzaj         It's all a bit pointless now, isn't it? We've been betrayed, they'll know our plan

Vedmad             You don't know you've been betrayed.

Lugeret             Yes, we do! We just sang a whole song about it!

Vedmad             No, I mean, your character has no way of knowing she did that. You have to act like you don't know.

Thiecka             Alright. Can we spot our allies?

Vedmad Yes, they're milling around, trying to add fuel to the fire. It's all very hectic.

Thiecka Well, I suppose we get in there and start yelling too.  
*(One at a time, the players turn into the interns. Vedmad disappears)*

Liam Stop corporate greed

Emma Stop the product being rolled out

Noah Get me a sandwich!  
*(Beat, the others looking annoyed.)*

Noah What, all the other complaints were taken!  
*(Emma opens her mouth to shout again but instead we get...)*

Cathy Give us our bonus!

Sophie We deserve better!  
*(Secret group join the interns)*

Peter Don't know that this is working so well, we might have got them too angry.

Jessica It'll be fine, I promise.

Liam A disturbance like this, Bob is bound to come down any minute.

Ella And we're sure that's a good thing?

Emma It's better than him being untouchable in his office. We've just got to wait.

Jane But how long can we wait?

Bob *(O/s)* Oh, not long, my friends.

Noah How does he keep doing that?

*(Enter Bob.)*

Bob It's a shame. I thought I had good employees. Loyal employees.

Simon We are loyal. Or, at least we were!

Adam We're loyal to this company, not to you!

Sophie You don't care about your workers, about any of us!

William Why should we care about you!

Jim Yeah, or your money!

Jessica Stop talking about the money...

Bob Hmm, you make some good points. I particularly like all your signs.

Bob *(Everyone pauses, looking at their signs.)*

Did you write those signs with our company's ink?

Tanya Well, yeah

Cathy It's what was close at hand.

Bob Now, if you had listened to our new interns who tricked you into this little rebellion - nice plan by the way - you'd know that the reason they're angry is because I put a little something in the ink going out with our new product. Well, not exactly. I put a little something in all the ink we produce. Although, this one has got a bit of a twist.

*(Vedmad reappears, rolling a dice. It spins, landing on a 19.)*

Bob A little charm spell I came up with. Why don't you come with me?

*(The workers become zombie-like and nod, exiting.)*

Liam What did you do?

Bob They'll do whatever I want now. You haven't been using our product I see. Not much loyalty to the company that pays you.

Emma We're interns, we barely make minimum wage.

Noah                      Also, this is our second day, you haven't paid us yet.

Bob                        Well, maybe you should put your efforts elsewhere. You've lost. I expect to see your resignation on my desk in the morning.

*(Exit Bob. After a second, the players and Vedmad re-enter.)*

Evashtzaj                Our plan failed. I bet you knew the whole time that would happen.

Vedmad                    Sorry.

Thiecka                    What do we do now?

Evashtzaj                We've got to find Stanton, maybe she can fix things.

Lugeret                    We can't give up. We haven't even levelled up yet!

Thiecka                    Come on. Let's go.

*(Blackout)*

## 2.6 Let's Get Down To Business

Noah, Liam, Emma, Stanton

*(Lights up on Stanton looking worried. Enter the three interns, looking angry.)*

Emma Did you know about this?

Stanton About what?

Emma About the ink and the magic and everything!

Stanton Wait, slow down, what happened?

Liam Everyone has been kidnapped. Bob's taking over their minds and is going to make them do whatever he asks.

Stanton Oh my god, that's awful, is everyone okay?

Emma I don't know!

Liam We don't know what he'll do now. Probably make them work forever on this new product.

Noah The worst hell imaginable... unending office work.

Stanton So, what are you going to do?

Noah Us? Look, we're interns. I'm just here for a summer job to get my parents off my back. I don't plan on making this company my life or whatever you're expecting. It's not up to us to save the day and it shouldn't be! All the people who should have done something are now the personal slaves of the CEO!!

Emma I just don't know what we can do that you haven't already.

Stanton All those people were there because of our plan, your plan. We can't let them down now. They're our friends. We need to help them.

*(SONG: I'll Be There For You (Clap Clap Clap Clap). Except not that, it's copyrighted. But, in the same vein, it's a song about friendships and looking after each other. It's big, it's soaring, it's*

*emotional.*

*At the end of the song, players fade away and the interns look at each other and Stanton.)*

Emma I still don't know what we can achieve.

Stanton I'd go with you if I could but I need to go find the press.

Liam Will that help?

Stanton If you fail, it's the only thing that could stop him... well, taking over the world.

Noah How?

Stanton Well, with the press, we can expose him and squash any chance he has of succeeding.

Emma Okay. Good luck Ms Stanton.

*(Exit Stanton)*

Emma I can't believe she has a giant machine to squish him with and she never told us.

Noah I just don't get why he has to be naked for it to work.

Emma Maybe it doesn't work on clothes?

Noah That's fair enough.

Liam Alright, I think I've got a plan.

Emma You do? Does it involve trickery, finding a weak spot, disrupting his magic?

Liam No. *(Beat, maybe drawn out slightly)* We're going to go in there and punch him in the face.

Noah That works.

*(Blackout.)*

## 2.7 The Boss Battle

Vedmad, Akani, Lugeret, Thiecka, Evashtzaj, Sarah, Noah, Liam, Emma, Bob, Stanton

*(Lights up on Bob laughing maniacally. Enter the interns, each holding a different weapon, mostly office themed. I imagine Liam has a notebook, Noah has a stapler or similar and Emma has a sword. The others react slightly to the sword.)*

Thiecka I thought we said swords didn't exist here.

Vedmad I never said that, she can have a sword if she wants.

Lugeret That's favouritism right there, it shouldn't even exist!

Evashtzaj We'll argue the metaphysics of the game later, for now there's a Boss to beat!

Bob Ah, so it comes down to this.

*(He pulls out his gun)*

Bob Let's fight.

*(He points the gun, they swing their weapons but-)*

Vedmad Wait! Roll initiative!

*(Players appear at the top of the screen with Vedmad. Interns and Bob freeze.)*

Evashtzaj Seriously?!

Vedmad It's a fight, it's how things work.

*(They do. Dice rolls can be shown, with Lugeret, then Thiecka, then Evashtzaj getting highest to lowest scores.)*

Vedmad Right, Lugeret, it's you to go first. A gun is being pointed at you. What are you going to do?

*(At this point, the director - and any editors - start to hate me, as I ask you to create a fight scene. If recorded, I imagine the fighters*

*would act things out and then get slowed down to match the pace of things being said. Dice are constantly being rolled and landing on various numbers.)*

Lugeret I'm going to take my hole punch and hit him with it!

Vedmad Wait, you're a rogue! You're meant to be sneaky!

*(Noah runs up and hits Bob with his hole punch. It hits him but has no discernible effect. Bob is clearly unimpressed.)*

Vedmad Okay, that did absolutely nothing. He's going next, he's going to try and shoot you.

Lugeret I dodge!

*(Bob goes to shoot but Noah dodges. I'll stop telling you everything that happens twice.)*

Vedmad Thiecka, what are we doing?

Thiecka Paper is my instrument! I rustle through my book's pages, the sound reminding him of why we're doing this, what our mission is! Everyone is inspired and now I'm going to hit him with the book.

Vedmad You try but you miss. Evashtzaj?

Evashtzaj I run up and stab him.

Vedmad Oh, we are going to straight to murder. He manages to block your stab with his briefcase though. Lugeret?

Lugeret I'm just going to hit him with my hole punch again.

Vedmad He already took it!

Lugeret I have stolen many hole punches from this office, there's plenty more where that came from.

Vedmad You hit him! But he gets to react, and punches you in the face.

Lugeret What?

Vedmad And I think you have significantly lower HP than he does.

Lugeret                    I do!

*(Noah collapses)*

Evashtzaj                What the hell?!

Vedmad                    So, you're all close, so he's going to hit Liam. He knocks you immediately unconscious.

Thiecka                    From a punch?!

Vedmad                    I'll be honest, I thought you'd level up a bit before fighting him!

Thiecka                    Right, well, my turn. I'm going to heal myself.

Vedmad                    Healing fails, sorry, you're too distracted. Evashtzaj?

Evashtzah                I'm going to try and grab whoever's closest to me, uh, Liam and pull them away?

Vedmad                    He's going to try and hit you as you do that, and you can't defend.

*(Emma grabs Liam and starts to move but Bob lashes out and hits them both.)*

Vedmad                    All three of you are on the ground, what do you do?

Akani                        *(O/s)* I'm going to hit him over the head!

All                            What?!

*(Enter Akani and Sarah to their respective parts of the screen. Sarah is holding a massive folder. She raises it up and whacks it over Bob's head. The players cheer!)*

Akani                        Surprise attack!

Thiecka                    That's awesome!

Evashtzaj                Wait, what did you get on your attack roll?

Akani                        A nat twenty

All                            YES!!



Stanton Bob, you can't hurt them, I've got the press coming right... *(she spots everything)* Oh, god, is he dead?

Liam No, just unconscious.

Noah It's not that kind of play.

Sarah But look, we figured out how to reverse everything he's done. No more lying or secrets, we fixed everything.

Emma We're awesome.

Stanton That's amazing. Look, I know this is just your second day but I think we need to make sure you stay with us, permanently.

Sarah Really, you mean it?

Noah Was that our aim?

Stanton Yes, I mean it. In fact, I think it's time we had a new department. How would you like to lead our new Department of Corruption Prevention?

Interns Um...

Stanton We'll think of a better name.

Emma Oh, then of course.

Liam Definitely.

Sarah Should we go and rescue everyone else?

Stanton I just walked past them, they're still complaining about everything, maybe we should give them time to blow off some steam.

Emma Right then.

Liam Pub?

Noah Pub.

*(Blackout)*

## 2.8 Let's Wrap this Up

Vedmad, Akani, Lugeret, Thiecka, Evashtzaj

*(Lights up on the five players.)*

- Vedmad            So, it's the end of the game. If you decide to play again, you'll level up but that's the story there for now.
- Lugeret            That was amazing.
- Evashtzaj         That thing you did with the paper was so cool Thiecka.
- Thiecka            Are you kidding, you almost died trying to save me, that was wicked!
- Akani              Um, are we all forgetting the part where I single handedly saved all of you.
- Evashtzaj         Oh come on! You really had us going there for a bit.
- Akani              I know. It was fun.
- Lugeret            Great story Vedmad, thank you.
- (General agreement from the others.)*
- Vedmad            Thanks guys.
- Evashtzaj         You know, we could play again, couldn't we?
- Vedmad            I haven't got much planned for now but I'm sure I could figure something out.
- Evashtzaj         We could get promoted again!
- Lugeret            I want to go and bother the HR people.
- Akani              Maybe we can steal some money from finance people?
- Thiecka            Or at least figure out how those weird pens work?
- Akani              Whatever. I'm sure we'll play again.

Evashtzaj            Oh definitely.

Lugeret              Probably take another five months to sort a game but we'll play again.

Vedmad              Okay everyone. Until next time. Bye.

*(The players leave one by one, saying their goodbyes, until it's just Vedmad on stage. He looks around, before glancing at the camera. )*

Vedmad              I'll have to make a note of how that didn't work, won't I?

*(He holds up a pen and clicks it. He winks and we fade to black.)*

**FIN**