

Alice in Murderland

By: Wynter Suber

Character List:

Akari- Outgoing, caring, nonchalant

Arlen- Quiet, around Madder, emotional

Cora- Loud, really annoying, crybaby

Madder- Loud, hot-headed, childish, around Arlen

Rhys- annoying, talkative, crybaby

Shire - Quiet, observant, nonchalant, blunt

Amore- Chill, flat-tone (not mono-tone)

Elias- Caring, generous, slightly sinister

SCENE 1

Lights up on stage. There is a round table with eight chairs on upstage left and a pillar on downstage right lying horizontally. **MADDER** enters from stage left with **ARLEN** around his arm. **CORA** follows yelling at him.

CORA

WHAT THE HELL IS YOUR PROBLEM! DON'T YOU HEAR ME TALKING TO YOU!

MADDER

(Nonchalant) Sorry, TWAT... did you say something?

ARLEN laughs.

CORA

(stunned)... EXCUSE ME! DON'T YOU EVE-

AMORE enters from downstage stage left.

AMORE

(flatly) Can you guys shut the hell up.

MADDER rolls his eyes and sits down with **ARLEN** at the table

CORA

AND WHO THE FUCK ARE YOU?!

AMORE

(whispers) hey, hey... come here.

CORA hesitantly goes to **AMORE**. He pinches her lips together. **MADDER** and **ARLEN** silently chuckle.

Much better.

CORA pushes him off and sits down on the pillar rubbing her lips. **AKARI** and **RHYS** enter from upstage right.

RHYS

I'm telling you something is up. (looks at everyone. Whispers) We'll talk later. Don't tell anyone about this. (sits at the table next to **MADDER**)

MADDER pushes him out of the chair. **RHYS** scaddles to the opposite end of the table.

AKARI

(under her breath) Hopefully not.

CORA

(Talking to **AKARI**) What was that about?

AKARI

I don't know. (slight pause) He thinks we've been abandoned or something.

CORA

ABANDONED?! WE'VE BEEN ABANDONED?!

RHYS

(Standing up) I TOLD YOU NOT TO TELL ANYONE!

AKARI

Oops.

MADDER

What is that prick yelling about?

CORA

I HAVE A NAME YOU KNOW?!

MADDER

(slowly, getting up walking towards her) I'll call you whatever i want, shit face.

CORA pounces at **MADDER**. **AMORE** catches her before she reaches him. **MADDER** laughs sitting back down.

AMORE

(flatly) Calm down. (drops **CORA**)

CORA

WHAT THE-

AMORE Pinches her lips again.

AMORE

(still pinching her lips. flatly) Have you ever tried being quiet (medium long pause) I didn't think so. (Lets go of her lips and sits on the stage left side of the table)

SHIRE and **ELIAS** enter stage left. **ELIAS** stays by the table while **SHIRE** crosses to upstage right pulling out a lollipop, sits on the floor crisscrossed staring upstage at **MADDER** who doesn't notice him.

ELIAS

Hey gu-

CORA

WE'VE BEEN ABANDONED! (starts sobbing)

AMORE

(flatly) Geez.

ELIAS

(innocently).... what?

RHYS

WELL SINCE EVERYONE KNOWS NOW!

CORA stops sobbing.

I have a theory. I haven't proved it yet *since me and AKARI were supposed to check the area to-*

MADDER

Speed this story up sissy pants.

RHYS

I WILL TELL THIS STORY AT THE SPEED I WANT!

MADDER glares at him.

.....or I can speed it up. I think we've been abandoned here.

MADDER

(skeptical) Why?

RHYS

Well... the floor I'm on... nobody was there and I checked the yard from my window...and...

MADDER

Well instead of being a dimwit you could've asked everyone to check the floor they were on.

RHYS

W-well I just thought-

MADDER

What, (Grabs **RHYS** by the collar) you thought you could just escape without a word to anyone else? Huh? IS THAT IT?!

RHYS

WHAT?! NO IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!

AMORE

HEY MAN! (pushes **MADDER** and **RHYS** apart. Flatly) Chill out. (sits back down) So you think that we're stuck here?

RHYS

Well... Yeah...

AMORE

Have you tried any of the doors?

AKARI

Oh yea... the doors lock on the outside...

RHYS

And if the doors are locked... we have to find some sort of way out of here.

SHIRE

Or... do we...? I checked the food stock and we have enough to last us for a good looonggg while...

MADDER

If you wanna stay here you can do that on your own.

SHIRE

Did you forget we're criminals? What are you gonna do once you get back out there (slowly approaching **MADDER**) Kill, steal, Nonconsensually bury yourself in women-

MADDER

(standing up grabbing him by the collar. **AMORE** is unbothered) I'LL KILL YOU IF YOU SAY ONE MORE FUCKING WORD!

AKARI

Don't test him.

SHIRE

Awe why not? You worried for me? I'm not scared of this self proclaimed super villain.

MADDER raises his hand to punch **SHIRE**. **AMORE** stops it.

AMORE

(flatly) I'm so sick of playing referee.

SHIRE

Then don't. We were just having a little fun. (Looking at **MADDER**) Right, maddog?

AMORE crosses to the table but doesn't sit down.

MADDER

I'M GONNA MUR-

AMORE Pinches **MADDER** between his neck and shoulder. **MADDER** falls to the floor. **ARLEN** rushes over to him.

SHIRE

(a little shocked) Woah.

ARLEN

(staring down at **MADDER**) What... what did you do to him?

AMORE

(Crouching down to her. Flatly) He's fine. Just... taking a little nap
(Pats **MADDER's** head then sitting down at the table)

ARLEN nods and holds **MADDER** on the floor playing with his hair. **SHIRE** rolls his eyes and bites his lollipop. There's a long silence. **SHIRE** pulls out another lollipop.

RHYS

Well...uhm... I'd like to get back to the bigger problem at hand... how are we going to get out of here...

AKARI

...I could go with you to check the doors... I guess (rolls eyes)

RHYS

(sarcastically) THAT WOULD BE GREAT THANK YOU... but no since you decided to be a snitch **BITCH** and tell everyone about my theory... so does anyone else want to come with me?

Everyone, except **MADDER** of course, blankly stares at him.

You know what? F you guys.

RHYS walks backwards holding up the middle finger before turning around and storming off downstage left.

AKARI

Y'all saw me try to help right?

Everyone, except **MADDER**, shrugs.
MADDER slowly wakes up. There's
a pause.

ELIAS

I have to go to the bathroom

MADDER slowly gets up.

MADDER

(Slowly) Same. Gotta hit up the shitter. (Raises hand to dap **ELIAS**
up)

ELIAS stares. **MADDER** moves his
hand to wipe his hair and walks
off downstage left. **ELIAS** stares
then follows.

CORA

What are we supposed to do? We can't just sit here *waiting* for them
to get back!

AMORE

What do you suppose we do then, big mouth?

CORA

WHY DO I HAVE TO COME UP WITH THE PLAN!?!?

AMORE

You're the one suggesting we do something... So it's only right you
come up with a plan, right?

CORA

SO WHAT?!? WE'RE JUST SUPPOSED TO TRUST THAT WEAK EXCUSE OF A
MAN?!?! I'm 100% sure he'll be the first to jump at a chance out of
here! He's the last one we need to put our trust in!

AKARI

I mean... you gotta be honest, Amore... she kinda has a point...

AMORE

Maybe... but what do you suppose we do? There are two people out in the bathroom and one allegedly checking doors... I think we should give it time. At least until the two get back.

MADDER walks in from downstage left and sits next to **ARLEN**.

AKARI

There's one.

Long pause.

CORA

OH COME ONNNN!!! WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING!! WHO KNOWS HOW LONG THAT OTHER GUY WILL BE OUT?!?!?

AMORE

Would you calm down for once? If you're THAT impatient go alone.

CORA folds her arms and looks away. Long pause. **ELIAS** walks in from downstage left and sits on the edge of the table.

CORA

CAN WE TALK ABOUT A PLAN NOW?!?!?

MADDER

What plan?

AMORE

(Gesturing to **CORA**) Ask big mouth over there.

CORA

HELLO?!?! MY NAME IS CORA! I'M SICK OF THIS DISRESPECT!

CORA storms off downstage right.

ELIAS

What are we planning?

AMORE

A way out of here apparently...

ELIAS

Isn't Rhys out looking at the doors?

AMORE

(Short Pause) Yeah, that's what I told her.

ELIAS

Then why does she want to make a new plan without him?

AMORE

She thinks he's weak and can't be trusted.

ELIAS

(To himself) *Well-*

CORA screams off stage. **CORA**
runs on stage.

CORA

He's dead.

AMORE

Rhys?

CORA

YES YES HE'S DEAD!!

SHIRE

Well, well... I wonder who could've done it?

CORA

What are you talking about...

SHIRE

Oh c'mon... Who else has been out (Starting to slowly pace the room)
only three of us have left this room... Maddog here, The friendly guy,
and you... Cora.

CORA

Are you suggesting one of us **killed** him?

SHIRE

What else would I be suggesting?...

CORA

WELL I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'D BE ACCUSING ME!! THOSE TWO WERE OUT LONGER THAN I WAS!!

SHIRE

And we forget a very important thing once again...

CORA

...What?

SHIRE

That you...(getting close to her face)... are a prisoner sweetheart.
(turning to the group) We all know what we did. Let's not forget that we are all here because we are guilty of crime. No matter what innocent little front you wanna put on, or how much you say you've changed. **You. Are. Still. Here.**

MADDER

So what? You think you're better than everyone else?! YOU'RE STILL HERE TOO DUMBASS!

SHIRE

Let's hold our temper. Getting so defensive only makes you look like a bad boy.

MADDER starts to charge at **SHIRE**
but **AMORE** holds him back.

AMORE

Could you *try* being less of a passive aggressive asshole and get to the point already smartass.

SHIRE

Fine, Mr. Peacemaker. There are only two of you that I can confidently say would do it. Cora has already expressed how she feels about the weak link. And Maddog here is a hot head so why wouldn't he do it.

MADDER starts to move towards
SHIRE again but is held back by
AMORE.

You can let your dog off the leash.

AMORE

What is your problem?!

SHIRE

So now *I'm* the only bad guy in this room? Why don't we do a little share circle, hm? Let's gather in a circle and share what crimes we've committed! (sits on the floor crisscrossed patting the ground)

Everyone sits in silence for a moment looking at each other.

Oh... okay I'll share for you then. Starting with myself, *I* am here for aggravated assault and arson. (with a smile) I set my work place on fire. My boss of course wasn't too happy with that and started yelling at me. *SO* to shut him up I took a branch from the ground and beat him with it. (beat) Now who wants to go next (short pause) I do! Shire pick me! You wanna go Maddog? Okay! *SO THE MADDOG HIMSELF* is in here for raping his boss almost killing her and *ROBBING* her while she was unconscious! Can you believe that!? I can!

Everyone looks at **MADDER**. **MADDER** pushes **AMORE** off of him and pulls **RHYS** up from his collar.

What? The truth hurts?(Beat. Twisting **MADDERS** wrist off of him) How disappointing... you have nothing to say... The loudest person in the room... speechless...

MADDER stands silent looking at the ground. **SHIRE** stares at **MADDER** for a moment. Irritated **SHIRE** moves on.

...Well. Amore... shall I?

AMORE stares then gestures dismissively.

Amore is convicted of manslaughter. In a fit of rage he pushed his best friend off of a 12 story balcony killing him. He almost convinced the Jury he was innocent. Unfortunately for him though, a tourist filming the view from their resort caught the push in action.

Everyone looks at **AMORE**.

Would you like to comment?

AMORE

What do you get out of doing this?

SHIRE

*I don't need to **GET** anything.* I'm proving a point. NEXT! CORA, you drugged a random, innocent lady at a bar just to satisfy your boyfriend... at the time... she had to go to the hospital due to overdose

CORA

HE MADE ME DO IT!! (sobbing)

SHIRE

(going over to **CORA** patting her back) He didn't MAKE you DO anything... Your need for approval, your need to be loved, wanted, and seen... was bigger than your moral compass...

CORA quiets down.

From the moment you got up to talk to her, to the moment you saw her exiting on a stretcher, you knew what you did was wrong... yet you still did it. You knew if you didn't do it he was just gonna do it himself. You just didn't want him to leave you... and you found out the hard way that what he was feeling for you wasn't love. (beat) NEXT! Arlen... she's so quiet, the only words that have come from her mouth were about (short pause) Maddog. I almost wonder, why? It's because you helped him commit his crime. You broke into his boss's house for him, and robbed the place while he was enjoying himself. (walking toward **ARLEN**)

MADDER

Watch it.

SHIRE

(scoffs) I wasn't going to do anything. I just want to talk.

MADDER

Talk about what?

SHIRE

Why do you need to know? She's not a slave to you... Are you Arlen?

ARLEN looks at **MADDER**.

Don't look at him.

ARLEN looks back at **SHIRE**.

Look at me. Are you a slave to him, Arlen?

MADDER stares at **ARLEN**.

ARLEN

(looking down) ...No...

MADDER lets out a slight huff
and looks away.

SHIRE

Alright, then can I talk to you?

ARLEN

(looking at **SHIRE**) Yes...

SHIRE

(sitting next to **ARLEN**. **ARLEN** scoots over. **SHIRE** grabs **ARLEN** by the chin turning her face towards him) Awe... There's no need to be scared of me. I haven't done anything to you have I?

ARLEN shakes her head no.

Right. I just want to talk. (Holding her hand) Are you naturally this timid? Or were you forced to be?

ARLEN pulls her hand away and
slowly turns her head to **MADDER**.

Oh... I see... (Getting up peeking from behind **MADDER**) how sad... (walking toward **AKARI**) Well... **AKARI** (sitting down) You-

AKARI

I can speak for myself... (rolling her eyes) I... killed my psychiatrist... it just felt like he was mocking me... Just clicking his pen... writing in that stupid notepad... HIS PASSIVE AGGRESSIVE JUDGING FACE!... I couldn't take it anymore... When I realized what I did I just felt numb... I stared at him... put his bloody pen in his suit pocket and walked out... they stared at me as I walked through the lobby... before I

could walk out the door the security guards were handcuffing me... then the police showed up and now I'm here.

SHIRE

(slow clapping) Good job! You're one of the only people in this room that can admit to themselves they aren't a good person! COOL! Anyway... Elias here (pointing at **ELIAS**) I couldn't find your file... So it's puzzling to me why a sweet looking boy like you would be here... (leaning toward him) I wonder... did you go looking for your file? Did you know someone would look for it? That I would...

ELIAS stares at **SHIRE** silently.

Hm...

CORA

WHAT EVER! CAN WE JUST FIND A WAY OUT OF HERE NOW?!? WHO CARES WHAT ANY OF US DID?!? You proved your point okay!? YOU PROVED IT A LONG TIME AGO!!

SHIRE'S eyes linger on **ELIAS'** a little longer.

SHIRE

But... we still haven't (to **CORA**) figured out who killed poor Rhys...

CORA

WELL, I DIDN'T KILL HIM!

SHIRE

Prove it.

CORA

HOW DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DO THAT?!

SHIRE

Hm... that's a good question (walking towards **CORA**).... I KNOW! You could die.

CORA

WHAT?!

SHIRE

It's the quickest way to prove your innocence. If the killings continue in your absence... then you'd be innocent in death. SO do you want to kill yourself or have someone kill you?

CORA

WHAT?! NO! WHAT THE FUCK IS YOUR PROBLEM?!

SHIRE

You want your innocence proven right?

AMORE

Let's be civil Shire...

SHIRE

Then what do you suggest, Peacemaker?

AMORE

... I don't know... (beat) There's obviously a divide here so let's just split up and figure a way out.

CORA

Well I know who I **DON'T** wanna work with! (glaring at **SHIRE**)

SHIRE

Oh you don't have to worry about me... I'm not going into any of the groups. It'll make the split more even...

AMORE

Well... one problem is out of the way... how do you guys wanna split...

SHIRE moves upstage center.
ELIAS and **AKARI** move to **AMORE**.
ARLEN and **MADDER** move to the opposite side. **CORA** walks to **AMORE**. **AMORE** holds out his arm pushing her back.

CORA

What are you doing?

AMORE

Groups gotta be even...

CORA

WHAT?! I DON'T WANNA BE GROUPED WITH THAT ASSHOLE!!

AMORE

Then work by yourself...

CORA

(Loud annoyed groan) FINE! (stomping to the other side of the stage)

ELIAS

If you want... I could switch with you...

AMORE looks visibly annoyed.

CORA

THANK GOD! (runs to the opposite side of the stage)

ELIAS walks to the opposite side of the stage.

MADDER

Glad you decided to switch with Ms.Bitch.

ELIAS

Just thought I'd settle the tension a little...

SHIRE

Ah, We have another serene being in the room. Guess having thing one (points to **AMORE**) and two (uses opposite hand to point at **ELIAS**) on the same team (putting index fingers together) wouldn't have been effective, huh?

AMORE

Could you just shut up already?

SHIRE

Sure my most tranquil leader. (bows making eye contact with **AMORE**)

AMORE rolls his eyes.

MADDER

(grabbing **ARLEN** and **ELIAS** to the side. In an almost whisper to **ELIAS**) So... Do you have a plan?

CORA is pantomiming a plan she has to **AMORE** and **AKARI**. It should look stupid.

ELIAS

Not necessarily... I thought Rhys' plan was pretty good... but-

MADDER

Right- Punk ass got himself killed.

MADDER, ARLEN, and ELIAS
pantomime talking.

AMORE

(to **CORA**) ...You're a dumbass...

CORA

(Slightly exaggerated) Oh fuck you...

AMORE

The idea was dumb as shit.

AKARI

...He's not... wrong

CORA

WELL IF ITS SO BAD COME UP WITH A BETTER IDEA THEN!!

AKARI pantomimes a better idea.
It should look good.

MADDER

Damn.. you really are a step up from Ms.Pisspanties. I think that's a pretty solid idea.

ELIAS

Uh... thanks. (looks offstage)... It looks like it's getting dark out. I think we should hang out until morning...

MADDER

Nawh I think we should sneak out now while we can. It's dark. They wouldn't notice.

ELIAS

(sarcastically) I suppose you have a flashlight then...

MADDER

(not realizing the sarcastic comment. beat) You're right. (Gestures **ARLEN** to follow him to the bench)

ARLEN slowly goes to follow.
ELIAS watches them. **SHIRE** is slowly approaching **ELIAS** and turns him around. **AMORE** watches this exchange but can't hear anything. **MADDER** and **ARLEN** don't notice or hear. **AKARI** and **CORA** look as if they're arguing.

SHIRE

Do you think you can trust him? **Be honest.**

ELIAS

Well-

SHIRE

Think. Elias.

ELIAS

I-... (beat)... does it- matter?

SHIRE

I suppose... it doesn't, **but** do you want to be on a team with an alleged- (thinks a moment for wording) *active* murderer?

ELIAS

Wha- (catches himself) Rhys? Is that what this is about? Of course I don't want to be murdered but-

SHIRE

But what? Who says you won't be next? You came up with the plan of action and that's exactly what Rhys did... where is he?

ELIAS looks back at **MADDER** then back at **SHIRE**.

Is it clicking now? (stares at **ELIAS** as he walks back to where he was sitting)

ELIAS holds eye contact with **SHIRE** for a few seconds before **AMORE** catches his eye as **AMORE** walks up to him. **SHIRE** smirks as he watches things play out.

AMORE

What was that?

ELIAS

Nothing. (starts walking toward **MADDER**)

AMORE

(grabs **ELIAS'** arm) Look, I just want to make sure he's not fucking with your head.

ELIAS

It's cool.

A moment passes while they stare at each other.

AMORE

(letting go of **ELIAS'** arm) Alright.

MADDER looks over to see **ELIAS** and **AMORE** are talking.

MADDER

What the fuc- (getting up going over to **ELIAS** and **AMORE**) WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!?

AMORE

Chill out. I was just checking up on him.

MADDER

FOR WHAT?!

AMORE

(irritated) I saw Shire and him talking. Making sure he wasn't getting in his head.

SHIRE gets up walking to the group.

MADDER

(to **SHIRE**) What is your fucking problem (grabbing **SHIRE** up by his shirt) You can't just sit back and not mess with shit?!

SHIRE

I was warning him about you, and for good reason clearly...

MADDER

WHAT THE FUCK IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN!?

SHIRE

Look at you. You're acting like a rabid fucking animal.

MADDER

Shut. Up.

SHIRE

Why? You realized you're being a bad boy, Maddog?

MADDER

SHUT! UP!

SHIRE

Just be a good boy and let me go mkay.

MADDER starts choking **SHIRE**.

ARLEN gets up.

ARLEN

Madder.

MADDER doesn't look at her.

Madder let him go.

AMORE walks toward **MADDER**.

AMORE

Madder (tries to break them up)

MADDER pushes him back.

ARLEN

Madder stop.

MADDER

Shut up.

SHIRE

(straining) Is this what you did to Rhys

MADDER talks first. **ARLEN** starts at **SHIRE'S** "you're". **AMORE** starts after **ARLEN'S** "SHIRE!!" **ELIAS** starts at **AMORE'S** "PUSH HARDER!!" **CORA** sits and watches. **AKARI** freezes in horror. **AMORE** should be the last line.

MADDER	SHIRE	ARLEN	AMORE	ELIAS
SHUT UP!!	Did you hold him			
I DIDN'T DO	up like you're			
IT!! I DIDN'T	holding me?	SHUT UP SHIRE!!	(Trying to	
FUCKING DO	Did you watch	SHUT UP!! SHUT	push	
IT ASSHOLE!!	him struggle	UP!! SHUT UP!!	MADDER off	
SHUT THE FUCK	for air? The	SHUT UP!! SHUT	of SHIRE)	
UP!! (to AMORE)	life disappear	UP!! SHUT UP!!	MADDER	
GET OFF OF ME!!	from his eyes?	SHUT UP!! SHUT	STOP!!	
SHUT THE FUCK	Did you feel	UP!! SHUT UP!!	(ELIAS	
UP!! (to SHIRE)	his body weight	SHUT UP!! SHUT	tries to	
I DIDN'T KILL	get heavier?	UP!! SHUT UP!!	help	
HIM!! SHUT UP	What did you	SHUT UP!! SHUT	AMORE)	
GOD DAMMIT!!	think after you-	UP!! SHUT UP!!	SHIRE SHUT	
			UP!! GOD	
			DAMMIT!!	
			(to ELIAS)	
			PUSH	
			HARDER!!	I'M
			FUC- GRAB	
			TRYING!!	
			HIS- PULL	I'M
			HIS ARM!!	
			DAMMIT!!	HE'S
			(to MADDER)	TOO- HE
			STOP IT	WON'T
			MADDER !!	MOVE!!
			YOU'RE KIL-	

MADDER let's go of **SHIRE**. **SHIRE** falls to the floor.

AMORE

(livid) WHAT THE FUCK!?!

ELIAS

You... *killed* him...

MADDER

OH *BULL* SHIT! NOW I'M THE BAD GUY?!?! WHEN THAT FUCKER HAS BEEN
TORMENTING US THE ENTIRE WE'VE BEEN SITTING HERE!?!?

AMORE

WELL SURE HE WAS A FUCKING ASS BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN OFF HIM!

MADDER

SO WHAT NOW, AMORE HUH?!? HE'S DEAD! NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT!

ELIAS

...Madder...

MADDER

WHAT?!

ELIAS

...did you... did you kill Rhys...?

MADDER

WHA- NO I- I DIDN'T KILL-

CORA

Well you were so ready to kill Shire... How can we know you didn't kill
Rhys.

MADDER

(Charging toward **CORA**) WHY YOU BI-

AMORE and **ELIAS** hold him back.

CORA

NOW YOU'RE GONNA KILL ME!?!?

ARLEN

(going to **MADDER**) can you just please calm down.

MADDER

FOR WHAT?!

ARLEN

(hesitantly) Stop yelling please.

MADDER

(Charging toward **ARLEN**) WHY THE FUCK-

ARLEN flinches. **MADDER** stops himself and looks at everyone.

Fuck...

SHIRE gets up and snaps **MADDER'S** neck. **MADDER** falls to the ground dead. There's a long pause.

ARLEN

(scream. Run to **MADDER**) WHAT DID YOU DO!?!?!?

SHIRE

I removed the problem..

AMORE

SHIRE!

SHIRE

What?

ARLEN slowly gets up looking drained of life and walks off downstage left.

CORA

You faked your death?

SHIRE

No, I faked my life..

AMORE

THIS IS SERIOUS SHIT SHIRE!

SHIRE

Look, we're all trying to get out of this shit box right!?

AMORE rolls his eyes, **CORA** nods,
AKARI and **ELIAS** look at each
other and hesitantly nod too.

Then what I did here to Maddog was necessary. We all know he killed Rhys.

AMORE

We can assume he did it.

SHIRE

Okay... Mr. Tranquility we can *assume* he killed Rhys. Either way keeping him alive wouldn't have been helpful.

Long silence.

AKARI

I think I should go check on Arlen...

ELIAS

I'll go with you.

SHIRE

Give her my condolences.

AMORE elbows **SHIRE**. **SHIRE**
doesn't budge. **AKARI** stares at
SHIRE. **SHIRE** encourages them to
leave. **AKARI** rolls her eyes and
walks off downstage left. **ELIAS**
follows.

CORA

So what now?

AMORE

How the fuck did we end up stuck here... together... (sitting downstage right)

SHIRE

(moving to **AMORE**) Is the peacemaker cracking?

AMORE

Shire... just shut up.

CORA

CAN WE TALK ABOUT WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO TO GET THE FUCK OUT OF HERE!?

AMORE

You shut up too.

CORA

BUT WE-

AMORE

I said shut up.

CORA pouts. There's a long
pause.

SHIRE

What are you thinking about Mr.Peace.

AMORE

I'm processing.

SHIRE

Processing what?

AMORE

Are you serious...

SHIRE

Oh come on... Is this about Maddog? He had it comin-

AMORE grabs **SHIRE** up by his
shirt.

AMORE

THIS isn't JUST about Madder, okay? It's about the abandonment, the unsolved murder of Rhys, the arguing, the planning to get the FUCK out of here, and you... How did you even find our sentences? You're hiding somethin-

SHIRE breaks free from **AMORE'S**
grip pushing him back.

SHIRE

You're thinking too much. It doesn't matter how I found the files. Or what I could be hiding. (beat) Sure. I am hiding something. I knew a way out of here the entire time. I was just waiting for everyone else to catch up. Now, I wasn't expecting people to start dropping like flies. I mean Rhys was a shock to everyone. Madder- I wasn't intending to... but hey. And I hardly know Arlen but seeing how she clung to Madder... I wouldn't be surprised if she killed herself by now. That's 3 down and 5 left to go. If I'm right about Arlen of course.

AMORE

You're full of shit. You know that, right?

SHIRE

Eh.

AKARI rushes in **ELIAS** following behind her.

AKARI

She killed herself.

SHIRE

Called it.

AKARI

What the fuck is wrong with you?

SHIRE

So I can't be honest anymore?

AMORE

It was unneeded.

CORA

WHO CARES!! I WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE!! SHIRE HOW DO WE GET OUT OF HERE???

SHIRE

Mhhh.. I don't know...

CORA

THE HELL DO YOU MEAN YOU DON'T KNOW!?

AMORE

So loud...

CORA

IT FEELS LIKE I'M THE ONLY ONE THAT CARES-

SHIRE knocks **CORA** on the side of her neck. **CORA** falls to the ground.

AKARI

Are you sure the only reason you're in here is because of arson and assault?

SHIRE

The reason the cops know of (wink).

AMORE

...It's quieter but is she dead?

SHIRE

Uh... I don't know how hard I hit her...

ELIAS goes over to check **CORA'S** pulse.

ELIAS

You hit her too hard...

SHIRE

And then there were 4.

Everyone stares at **SHIRE** for a moment.

(kneeling down to **CORA**) ...Fine... My deepest dearest apologies.

AMORE pulls **SHIRE** up.

What?

AMORE

Look, you said you knew how to get out of here?

SHIRE

Mhm.

AMORE

Well... Speak.

SHIRE

How boring...

ELIAS

Was this supposed to be fun to you?

SHIRE

Oh, it was fun... I just don't want it to end this way...

AMORE

JUST- tell us how we get the fuck outta here...

SHIRE

Boo.. fine the doors have been unlocked... Rhys had the right idea but seeing as he didn't get very far...

AMORE

And how did you know that?

SHIRE

So many questions... (pause) I unlocked them. When I went looking through your files.

AMORE

So what were you planning here? Were you behind this whole shit show?

SHIRE

You give me so much credit Lord tranquility... No, there's no way I'd pick any of us out for this... I just woke up earlier. After being behind bars for a while the imagination blooms. I didn't *plan* anything, I just got bored. But I meant what I said earlier, we're all convicts... there's nothing much out there for us.

AKARI

Well I think anything beats being behind bars for the rest of my life. I'm gonna bounce. (beat) Thanks, Shire.

AKARI walks off downstage left.

AMORE

(beat) I'm gonna head out too.

AMORE exits downstage left.

ELIAS starts to follow **AMORE**.

SHIRE

Elias.

ELIAS stops and turns to **SHIRE**.

You're behind it aren't you?

ELIAS

How long did you have that figured out.

SHIRE

Since I couldn't find your file.

ELIAS

I could've guessed that.

SHIRE

Yeah... you're too quiet. Too kind. You were up before I was huh?

ELIAS

Had to be. I knew someone was gonna get curious.

SHIRE

Smart boy. Always two steps ahead. Do you wanna tell me why?

ELIAS

Maybe the next time we meet.

SHIRE

(beat)...Next time.

ELIAS and **SHIRE** look at each other for a moment. **ELIAS** exits upstage left. Black out.