

Season 5, Chapter 8 –

ACT IV: Actors Among Wolves



We can't stop now! There are two more acts left to get through before this play is finished once and for all! We must push on until we finally finish something! On to the next act!

Anyway, the act concluded and there was a short intermission as we prepared for the next act.

"And now... Act IV begins!"

Without much delay, the curtain rose once more, revealing me and Dennis talking about a peculiar object he was holding. Upon closer inspection, it was simply a bunch of sticks and paperclips taped together. Despite this, I was intrigued.

"Ooh, that's very nice."

"Yes, it's a new thing."

"You should patent it. Call it, 'Dennis'."

We slowly turned and saw that the curtain had risen. We both screamed and Dennis flung the Dennis which exploded when it hit a man in the audience.

"AHM! Quickly! We must follow the kidnapper!"

"Do we have to backflip out the window too?"

"Yes! For THEATER."

I tried my best to backflip out the window, but all I could manage was to simply fling myself backwards. I fell four stories and exploded when I crashed onto the ground. Everyone gasped in

horror. Zack Hakton, who was now John Mason for the play, floated. The butler, Bruno Mars, escorted everyone to my crash zone so they wouldn't have to do the backflip. I picked myself off the ground and punched John Mason in the face.

We took off running into the forest where most of the trees were blue. I'm guessing Amber was in charge of coloring those and she didn't do a very good job. After a bit of running, we came upon a cabin in the middle of the woods. I stopped and pointed dramatically.

"He must be inside! Let's go!"

We ran inside and the house immediately burst into flames.

"AAAAAH!"

We shuffled back outside and slammed the door behind us. After a few moments, it became apparent that Amber wasn't with us. We slowly turned to the burning house and soon heard Amber screaming.

"AAAAH! Oh my GOSH, I am, like, on FIRE! This was NOT in the script, guys!"

The doorknob violently jiggled.

"WHY IS THE DOOR LOCKED?!"

The house then exploded and crumbled to dust.

"What do we do now?!"

"Everyone get in the fire! It's the only way!"

We all flung ourselves into the burning rubble and immediately started burning alive.

"What is this? Whose idea was this?! Everybody out of the fire!!"

We all scrambled out and fell on our faces. As we picked ourselves up, there was a poof of smoke and Amber appeared before us looking all burnt and torn up.

"What happened to you?!"

"Got blown up."

"Quickly! We must find the kidnapper!"

"Oh, right. We were doing a play."

We ran off, flailing wildly.

So then! Our magical play adventure continues! Will we ever find the kidnapper? Or will the play go on forever? Guess we'll just have to push on and find out! Onward to more fun times!

We kept running through the forest. More specifically, we kept running into trees. After several moments of running, we emerged in a room that was completely white with bright lights hanging overhead. Apparently, we ran so far ahead that the prop placers weren't able to keep up and we were now in some sort of unfinished sci-fi room. Maybe one of those hologram rooms or something? We do have a healthy budget! Dennis looked around, wearing his signature Starbolt Shades.

"It's too dark in here! Can we turn on some lights?"

"Just take off your sunglasses."

"I can't, the lights are too bright."

Just as I was about to strangle Dennis with his own sunglasses, Adele walked over and hung up a sign on the wall. I punched John Mason in the face as she left and we all walked over to read the sign.

"...okay, so apparently this is the part of the play where we have to find out who the murderer is."

FlamDawg was confused.

"Aren't we supposed to be chasing that guy?"

I spun around.

"Yes, but every great play must have some sort of murder mystery scene even if it's just randomly smashed in the middle of the plot. Ah... a murder. You know, a friend of mine was murdered."

Sarah nearly keeled over.

"Oh my God, I was murdered?!"

"No. We're not even friends."

Her eyes narrowed.

"Now! In order to get back to whatever we were doing before, we must find out who the murderer is. It's as simple as that."

"Is there any backstory or anything? Who was even murdered?"

“None of that is important! It says on the sign that the killer is one of us! But who could it be...? Well, I know it’s not me so it must be one of you!”

I carefully looked everyone over. FlamDawg was picking his nose, Amber was glossing her lips, Sarah was texting, Kotaro was eating a waffo, and Dennis was staring off into space. Then I came to John Mason, who was holding a bloody knife. He stylishly spun and flipped it around, causing blood to fly everywhere, then he struck a pose with a sinister smile.

“Well, I think it’s pretty obvious who the killer is. I mean, who else could it be?”

I paused.

“...It’s AMBER.”

Several police officers ran over and put handcuffs on her. One swiped her lipgloss, threw it on the ground, and stomped on it several times.

“NO! BWAAAAAAH!!!”

She started sobbing as they dragged her offstage. John Mason smiled and put his bloody knife away, but not before stabbing one of the stage hands multiple times. The audience clapped and cheered as the white room faded away and we were back in the forest. It was then that we heard the woeful cries of the kidnapped Broom.

“Help. Help. Seriously. Help meeee.”

Looking up, we saw Alex sitting in a tall tree with the Broom. I flung myself dramatically at the tree.

“I’LL SAVE YOU!”

I ran to the tree! I smacked into the tree! I landed on the floor in a heap.

“NO!”

We all started trying to climb the tree to no avail. Eventually, we just started pushing John Mason as high as we could.

“CLIMB, John Mason, CLIMB!!!”

He tried his best but simply could not float high enough and kept sliding down. After several attempts, his face scrunched up and became Mad Face. He poked the tree and it burst into flames!

“TOO FAR! TOO FAR ZACK HAKTON!!!”

The audience screamed and we all panicked as a large chunk of the set caught on fire.

Okay then! Seems things are escalating quickly! Every time Zack Hakton- er, John Mason- is involved, things seem to not only escalate quickly; they also burn down and turn to ash.

The tree quickly burned down along with Alex and the Broom who turned to ash and blew away in the artificial wind. We all stared in horror. John Mason looked around as if nothing happened. And if something had happened he certainly was not the cause of it.

“They’re getting away! QUICKLY! We must go after them!”

We skipped along the forest path while holding hands. About halfway down the path, FlamDawg stopped and picked up an object off the floor.

“What is this?! This... this is... a FORK.”

“It’s a Zrock.”

It exploded in his face and he keeled over. We kept on skipping with manliness and determination, minus one FlamDawg. It wasn’t long before we caught up to the ashes blowing in the wind. We skip fast, don’t you know!

“There they are!”

We frolicked forth. John Mason frolicked a bit too intensely and blew up in the process. He reappeared in the corner of the room mere moments later, so don’t worry. I know you were all extremely concerned.

“Dennis! Aim the cannons!”

He ripped off his pants.

“READY!”

“W-Was that necessary?”

“Obviously.”

He aimed the cannon that had Zack Hakton’s face on it. The audience saw this and went wild.

“Why is it yellow?”

“Well, I wanted copper but got stuck with mandrea sunrise.”

I gasped like I was actually interested. Dennis got ready to fire the artillery.

“This is gonna come out real smooth. Like water flowing down a pipe.”

Amber gasped.

“OMG I can’t believe you just said that!!”

Kotaro fainted as Dennis fired the cannon. Just as the shell was about to make contact, Alex and the Broom reformed into proper bipedals and Alex jumped into another tree.

“Haha! You were close, but you’re not catching me today!”

“What do we do now?”

My eyes narrowed.

“We’re about to take this to an HNL.”

“What’s that?”

I took off the sunglasses that I was now somehow wearing.

“A Hoe Notha Level!”

Well then! Looks like it is time to get SERIOUS. We aren’t about to let Alex get away with this! Even if it is all in the name of theater! His fake antics must be stopped by us and us alone!

Alex laughed and snorted like a three-year-old girl on drugs. Alex laughed like FlamDawg on a Tuesday!

“So... what’s the plan?”

“We must fight! For the safety of everyone! Except John Mason! We do not care if he lives or dies!”

Glares all around.

“Alex! Let us FIGHT!”

“Um... I never told you my name.”

“Oh. Uh... person whose name I do not know yet! Let us FIGHT!”

Alex jumped down from the tree and we both assumed our battle positions. Kotaro floated across the stage in his underwear holding a “Round 1” sign.

“FIGHT!”

The bell dinged and we were off. We struck dramatic poses before we ran over and started slapping each other. This escalated until it became a proper Manly Slapfight. All of the girls were freaking out.

“Oh my God they’re KILLING EACH OTHER!!!”

“Not the face! NOT HIS BEAUTIFUL FACE!!”

But then, the face.

“NOOOOOO!!!”

All hope was lost and Sarah crumbled to the floor. We kept fighting up until Alex broke a claw and started screaming.

“HA.”

“No! Sindr just gave me a manicure!”

Then the fight got intense. How intense? You’ll just have to see!

So then! Uh... what about the play? Weren’t we supposed to be getting the Broom back? I’m all for fighting and punching people in the face but we have other things to do right now!

Suddenly, from out of nowhere, there was a flash of light and Princess Sarah appeared before us! We all gasped. John Mason floated. Oh right, it was Friday now.

“You there! Stop fighting! We must all settle our differences and learn to love one another!”

My eyes narrowed.

“Are you just saying this stuff so you can get your chapters back?”

“MAYBE.”

“Well, forget it. You are DONE.”

She stomped her royal foot.

“UGH! But why?!”

“Because! I am TIRED of you interrupting our lives every Friday just so we can serve you while you strut around like you’re the hottest thing on the discount market! Just marry Prow and move on with your life!”

“I am WORKING ON IT!”

“Um... Alex escaped while you were screaming.”

“I know. Let us go forth and follow him.”

And so we ventured deeper into the cardboard woods. John Mason kept trying to kill Princess Sarah as we walked, but she was four steps ahead of him. Literally. He couldn't reach her because she was too far away. The longer we walked, the darker it became.

“What's going on? Do we not have lights on this part of the stage?”

Sindr looked around.

“Hmm... this looks like a particular spot where I almost died.”

She smiled and we stared at her in horror. John Mason floated AND laughed at the same time. This caused FlamDawg to explode.

“So... where do we go from here?”

Amber pointed.

“There's a house over there!”

We turned around and saw an oddly suburban house just sitting there in the middle of the woods.

“Yes! Of course!”

“I knew that.”

Princess Sarah stepped forward.

“I shall lead the way!”

“How would you know the way? None of us have been here before.”

“SILENCE! I am Queen of Germany, therefore!”

Okay then! At this point, I'm not really sure what's happening. I mean, we're going on a long quest for this play and... how big is the stage, exactly? It seems like it's quite massive...

SEVENTEEN HOURS LATER...

We were right back where we started after another hour of walking. Princess Sarah appeared to be slightly confused.

“Hmm... I do believe that we are almost there...”

We were all *dying*. John Mason had long since keeled over and Princess Sarah’s fabulous heels were completely destroyed. They simply weren’t meant for... walking. Sindr sighed and moved a bush, revealing that we were actually right behind the house all along. Oh!

We took off running towards the house. Zack Hakton simply floated. Oh right, he’s John Mason right now. I’m always forgetting this stuff. When we got to the door, we nearly tore it off its hinges, revealing Dennis who was just randomly standing in the middle of the room.

“Dennis? What are you doing?!”

“Being sexy.”

This piqued my interest.

“How sexy?”

“Well...”

He grabbed his hair and pulled, casting aside his wig and revealing his long, flowing, rainbow Starbol-

“Okay, we don’t have time for this.”

I shoved him out of the way and he fell to the floor, unable to complete his rainbow hair sequence. This caused all his hair to fall out and he crumpled up and turned to dust. John Mason drifted above his ashes with his golden hair flowing in the wind.

We pranced up the stairs and into one of the bedrooms where we saw Alex and the Broom. Alex was lying on the bed and the Broom was just carelessly flung in the corner. I stepped forward, knocking over Princess Sarah in the process.

“At last, we have found you! Now we will-“

Suddenly, we heard a strange noise coming from the closet. I walked over and slowly opened the door, revealing Dennis, who was shoving a rubber duck up his [REDACTED]! The audience screamed. We all stared at him, jaws dropped. He turned around and noticed us, immediately attempting to dress himself. Alas, he could not find his pants because John Mason had already stolen them. He reached around for any other pants that might’ve been nearby. Bad move. Bad weave. He tumbled out of the closet and the rubber ducky went flying. I slowly closed the door, slamming into Dennis several times before bones snapped and the door shut. It was dead silent in the room for several long, uncomfortable moments.

“Ahem... so, um... wh-what were we talking about again?”

I looked over at Alex on the bed.

“Oh, right. ALEX!”

And, with that, the curtain fell on ACT IV.

Well then! That was... quite an ending. I see several audience members are being treated for shock. Hopefully this doesn't affect our five-star review!