

SECTION ONE**INT. ATRIUM**

There is a buzz of conversation, not just by the employees of Inkwyrn, but by a group of late teen-early twentysomethings. They are all vying for a coveted internship position at Inkwyrn, and are a bundle of nerves and excitement. MELLA walks up to greet them.

MELLA

Excuse me? Guys, could I get your attention please?

The main conversation dies down a little.

MELLA

Thank you. (she claps her hands together) So! Welcome to Inkwyrn! Over the next few days, you all will be vying for a select number of internships here. I'm Mella Sonder, Annie's PA, but you can call me Mella. I'll be showing you around and showing you the ropes here. Any questions? (BEAT) Yes?

RIDA

Um, yeah, what exactly do these internships entail?

MELLA

That's what you guys are gonna find out today. Any more? (BEAT)
No? Okay then, follow me.

The group begins to walk.

MELLA

So this here is the Atrium. There you have the main desk, the elevators, and a couple different hallways to other parts of the station. The chandelier overhead was actually gifted by Queen Isrea of the Southern Isles, after a profile was done on her coronation.

DESSA

(whispered)

My mom knows her.

MELLA

The Atrium is the main hub of action here at Inkwyrn. Everyone checks in in the morning if they don't already live on station, as most of the staff do. From here, there are several different places we can go first. So, let's take a vote. All in favor of going to PR?

A few people raise their hands.

MELLA

All in favor of seeing the design room?

A huge number of hands go up.

MELLA

Okay then, design room it is! It's up the stairs and right this way.

RIDA

She's kinda cool.

THOMAS

I know, right? I expected some boring lackey with no sense of style, and while she could use some work on the second one, Mella's not half bad.

RIDA

At least she didn't have us go around and share something about ourselves. My anxiety would skyrocket.

THOMAS

Ugh, same. I hate those. Hey, I'm Thomas.

RIDA

Rida. Where are you hoping to work?

THOMAS

The closet. Kinley Connors is a legend.

RIDA

Oh my gods, I had the biggest crush on him in my fortieth year. Those tattoos, though!

THOMAS

So rush, man.

MELLA

(calling back to them)

Hey, excuse me! Quiet back there please! People are working!

(BEAT)

RIDA

Hmmph. Maybe not *that* cool.

SECTION TWO

INT. ANNIE'S OFFICE

ANNIE is scribbling away at her desk when there is a knock at the door.

ANNIE

Come in.

The door opens.

CITRINE

Mella let me know that the interns are here, and she's taking them to the design room first. Things are going pretty well.

ANNIE

Do they like the tour?

CITRINE

Well, she's had to tell them to be quiet about four times, but like I said, things are fine. They're a talkative bunch.

ANNIE

I figured. About what time do I go out and meet them?

CITRINE

Yeah... about that. Maybe it would be best if you didn't?

ANNIE

What do you mean?

CITRINE

Well- and don't take this the wrong way- but... you ain't the best with kids.

ANNIE

What are you talking about? Fae likes me just fine!

CITRINE

I know, but they're a special sort. Remember the last time you met the interns?

Quick whoosh.

ANNIE

Uh... hello! How do, fellow kids?

(BEAT)

INTERN

This is boring!

Quick whoosh back.

ANNIE

Ugh, don't remind me.

CITRINE

So, maybe just be a presence this time?

ANNIE

Don't be ridiculous. I can be hip with the youngsters.

CITRINE

Your face says "yes", but your words say "no way".

ANNIE

Oh, screw you. I'll prove it right now! M.O.R.I.S, clear my schedule. I'm spending the day with the interns.

SECTION THREE

INT. DESIGN ROOM

MELLA

And that's just the tip off the iceberg when it comes to patterns. There's also all sorts of- oh yes? Question?

RIDA

So, like, are the patterns ever reused? Do you ever take parts of certain patterns and put them into others, or what?

MELLA

Actually, we-

ANNIE

(ARRIVED and feelin dramatic)

I can answer that question. We don't "reuse" patterns here at Inkwyrn, no we "restyle" them. Take an example from last year, this blue and gold dress am I right?

Deadly silence

ANNIE

For this year's pattern we've changed the sleeves to something more dramatic, added a touch of flair along the skirt, and a more scooped neckline.

(Beat)

Does that answer your question?

RIDA

Sure...

MELLA

(Why is Annie here, oh god what why nononono)

Uhhh, thanks, Annie..

(To the interns)

And this is our Editor in Chief: Ms Annie Inkwyrn.

Soft applause from the interns

ANNIE

Yes, yes, now I'm sure that Mella has shown you all the *boring* parts of the design room.

MELLA

Actually,

At the same ish time

THOMAS

Well, not really

ANNIE

(plowing over both of them)

I'm here to show you all the fun bits!

Quiet again

MELLA

Riiiiight, okay. So I guess we'll split into two groups. Who all wanted to go see PR?

Some hands rise

Okay! I'll take you guys there. The rest of you can stay here in
the design room with Annie.

RIDA

(to Thomas)

Which one are you going to?

THOMAS

I think I'm gonna stay here. We'll probably stop at the closet
next.

RIDA

But do you really want to stay with (gestures vaguely over at
Annie who is desperately trying to connect with a Youth)

ANNIE

Sooooo, cars are pretty cool right? Driving's one of the few
things I miss from earth.

TRAPPED INTERN

(laughs in a nervous agreeing way)

THOMAS

Ehhhhh, I'll do what I must.

RIDA

Alright, I'll catch up with you later!

THOMAS

Seeya.

DESSA

(overhearing this conversation)

I would go with Mella, but I'm worried we might hurt Ms
Inkwurm's feelings if we all go.

THOMAS

Awful considerate of you. (holds out a hand) I'm Thomas, by the
way.

DESSA

(shrugs and shakes his hand)

I'm Dessa. My mother always told me that if I'm kind to others,
they'll be kind to me.

THOMAS

That's really saccharine.

MELLA

Alright! Quiet for a second! Is this all that I'm taking to PR?

(BEAT) Then we'll see the rest of you at lunch.

(to Annie)

You're in charge, don't let them-

ANNIE

(cutting her off)

I can deal with kids! Go on to PR, shoo! Go!

Mella's group exits stage left

Well then! Let's see how many of you are there...two, four, five... (in a voice a touch too condescending for young adults) You kids seem like an eager bunch, would you like to see some of the fabric swatches?

DESSA

(whispered)

Maybe this was a mistake.

SECTION FOUR

INT. LUNCH ROOM

They're all having lunch in here. It's a little noisy.

MELLA

Why does she seem so...

MORIS

Woefully unequipped to deal with children?

CITRINE

Bad at connecting with anyone she isn't trying to sell somethin' to?

MELLA

Yeah...I mean, they seemed to handle *Robert* better than this.

And he hates youths.

CITRINE

Well, that could just be because, yknow, medical stuff is neat.

Annie just has no idea what she's'e'vn doin.

ANNIE

And so, then, like, there was this huge monster made out of lipstick, right? And what were we supposed to do with that?

Terrible for PR, but we got it sorted.

TRAPPED INTERNS

(laughing nervously in agreement, praying she leaves)

MELLA

(wincing)

Yikes, I'll go rescue her.

Sliding in to save the children

MELLA (CONT'D)

Heyy, you're Wellie, right? I wanted to tell you that you did a really great job down in PR, how'd you know all those rules?

WELLIE

(shyly)

I used to work for a small town newspaper and I kind of was the entire PR department.

MELLA

What!! That's incredible!

(to Annie)

Wellie here knew every single thing that Citrine was talking about *and* they knew a couple of extra curveballs about copyrights. It was pretty amazing.

ANOTHER INTERN (Jeffram)

Yeah, Wellie's pretty sick. They can juggle eight pencils at a time.

MELLA

You've really got a skill set there, Wellington.

WELLIE

(giggling)

Well, Jeffram knows how to do both the english and the Populision alphabets backwards.

JEFFRAM

(a little proudly)

At the same time. Perks of having double vocal cords.

MELLA

I used to know how to do the Mithcan alphabet backwards. It was
a big deal when I was little.

WELLIE

Oh man, that'd be hard.

JEFFRAM

Well, not if it's *spoken*. You're thinking of the written way.

WELLIE

Ohhhh, right right.

ANNIE

Uh, excuse us a second.

(she pulls Mella aside)

Hey, what are you doing?

MELLA

What do you mean? I wanted to come tell Wellie that they did a
good job. I didn't get a chance to do it earlier.

ANNIE

(oh really? really?)

Really? Because it seems like you're trying to undermine my
authority.

MELLA

What? I would never.

ANNIE

You swooped in and stole my thunder! I was hanging out with the kids and then you ruined it! (BEAT) Did Citrine tell you to do that? I see her over there. (shoots a glare at Citrine)

MELLA

No! No, uh, no. (thinks carefully) You just looked like you maybe needed some help-

ANNIE

(loudly)

I don't need your help!

Everything gets quiet for a second before returning to normal

ANNIE

(quieter)

I don't need your help. I'm hip! I'm with it! They love me.

MELLA

Sure.

DESSA

Hey, Ms Sonder?

MELLA

You can call me Mella.

DESSA

Okay, Mella, we were wondering if maybe we could go and see the main part of engineering? Just take a quick peek?

MELLA

Uh, yeah! Give me just a second.

(to Annie)

I'm gonna have to split the group again. Do you think you can handle going up to the file records?

ANNIE

Of course I can! What makes you think I can't?

MELLA

Welllllllllllllll...(gestures vaguely) they didn't seem too happy coming out of the design room.

ANNIE

(sighs dramatically)

That's because these children don't know good fashion when they see it.

MELLA

(mmmmmm yes)

Mhm, sure.

ANNIE

Oh, no there was one who did know good fashion. That one, there,
see him?

She points over at Thomas

MELLA

Yeah?

ANNIE

Yes. He knew about all sorts of fabrics and sketches and things.
I was wondering if he's ever been considered as an intern
before, he looks familiar. Thomas McClain, I think?

MELLA

I wouldn't know.

ANNIE

Moris?

MORIS

We've never had a Thomas McClain on station before.

ANNIE

(thinking)

Hm. I must be confusing him with someone else. (clears her
throat and claps hands) Well, split them up! I'm ready to be a
shimmering beacon of youth connection!

MORIS

If you knew the way that the interns look when talking to Mella as compared to talking to you, you would very quickly be going back to your office.

ANNIE

Oh hush you!

MELLA

(clapping her hands and calling to the interns)

Alright, alright, settle down. Are you guys done eating lunch?

(BEAT) Okay, so we're going to split you guys up again...

SECTION FIVE

INT FILE RECORDS

The Interns are listening to Annie and the librarian (also bad w youths) drone on about filing

THOMAS

(whispered)

That lady must be at least a thousand years old.

RIDA

(whispered back)

She is a Kliman, so it's entirely possible.

WELLIE

(softly)

We're gonna get in trouble if you guys don't quit.

THOMAS

(whispered)

No way! We're here at the back and there's like six other people
in front of us, we're fine.

WELLIE

(softly)

I dunno...

THOMAS

(whispered)

Hey, do you guys wanna go see what else is in here? Better than
listening to a Kliman for hours and hours, right?

RIDA

(whispered)

Yeah! Let's do it.

WELLIE

(softly)

I don't think-

THOMAS

(whispered)

C'mon! You could probably still hear everything with your big ears.

WELLIE

(softly uncertain)

Mmmm, maybe...But they'd probably notice we were gone right?

THOMAS

(whispered)

They won't notice a thing!

RIDA

(whispered)

You don't have to. But, if you aren't coming, you're not gonna
tattle on us are you?

WELLIE

(softly)

No, I wouldn't.

THOMAS

(whispered)

Great. We'll go have a bunch of fun, and you can stay here and
listen to this.

KLIMAN LADY

(droning)

And so, when the shelves were created of course, we had to
reinstall a robotic presence to the back of them.

ANNIE

Ahhh! The robotic shelf managers, yes! Are any of you familiar
with that sort of process?

WELLIE

(softly, reconsidering)

Well...

RIDA

(whispered)

You can use your tail and swing up real high on all these
shelves. It'll be fun.

WELLIE

(softly)

Let's not get too crazy.

THOMAS

(whispered)

Of course not! C'mon then.

*The three Bad Children disappear back into the many many rows of
shelves.*

THOMAS

Who knew that there could be this many files?

WELLIE

Oh, this is nothing. You should go to the Washington Post office
sometime.

RIDA

I cannot even begin to imagine.

THOMAS

I wonder if they keep files of all the old sketches on hand?
There weren't any in the design room.

WELLIE

They can't get rid of stuff like that. If they ever want to roll
back an old design or something, they'd need the sketches.

(BEAT) Why?

THOMAS

(shrugs)

Just curious. (BEAT) Wait a second, Wellie, could you find those
sketches?

WELLIE

Uh, I mean, probably? (suddenly nervous) But we shouldn't do that, they're probably in hard storage somewhere.

THOMAS

But I bet you could find them.

WELLIE

(nervously flattening their ears back)

I just...I mean, yeah.

RIDA

Oooo, old sketches! I wanna see what the fashions were like years ago!

WELLIE

(peer pressured again!)

Well...alright...

Sound of some quick searching being done and then one of the shelves opening with a woosh. Filled with designs and sketches.

THOMAS

Alright! Score!

Thomas moves to start rifling through them, snapping the occasional picture as he comes across different ones

WELLIE

You didn't say you'd be taking pictures!

RIDA

Oh, a bad boy over here, huh.

THOMAS

First of all, I'm not gonna use these for anything. I just want them for reference. You know what I mean.

WELLIE

What if someone catches you? You'll get in so much trouble!
(BEAT as they suddenly realize that they're an accomplice here)
I'm going to get in so much trouble.

RIDA

Mmmm, Wellie's right. Even if you aren't going to use them for darker purposes, it's still theft. (BEAT) And we'll all get in trouble and we'll never be hired at Inkwyrn ever.

THOMAS

You guys are ridiculous. They're still having their little lecture over there! There's nobody else here, we're fine.

MORIS

Oh really now?

WELLIE

Oh god.

MORIS

Thomas McClain, Annie thought you looked familiar. Still working
for Sapphireson?

THOMAS

(caught red handed)

Maybe...I'm looking for a better deal.

MORIS

A better deal by snapping some photos to send to Ms Sapphireson?
Don't lie, it makes you look worse.

THOMAS

(gritted teeth)

Maybe.

RIDA

Damn, here I was, prepared for a boring tour and instead I got
caught up in a scandal.

WELLIE

(softly)

And a lost job.

MORIS

Oh, no no little Tifling, I can keep you in good standing.
You're not the one I'm after.

THOMAS

So what're you gonna do with me now?

MORIS

I'm going to find someone to come and fetch you. (BEAT) Found them! Give or take three minutes.

THOMAS

Oh, so you can "interrogate" me?

MORIS

Actually, I was thinking of putting you in a small room and just playing "It's a Small World" on repeat for a while.

RIDA

Who made your personality? I would like to give them an award.

SECTION SIX

INT ANNIE'S OFFICE

Annie is pacing, Citrine is seated at her desk, and Mella is quietly doing some electronic paperwork.

CITRINE

(noting that nobody seems to be talking about the elephant in the room)

Sooooooo, I think some of those kids show a lot of promise.
'Specially that Wells one, I'd like t' put 'em in PR for good-

ANNIE

(exploding)

I just *don't understand it!!* Why is she after *our* designs! Can't she make some on her own? (frustratedly continues pacing) She could almost be a rival if she actually knew how to run a magazine.

CITRINE

Hey now! Don't act like that.

(to Mella)

She hasn't messed with us in a while, though.

ANNIE

Not until now! Stealing my designs, wasting my time, ughhhhhhhh.

MELLA

So...what do we do about this?

CITRINE

We'll just have to be more careful, I suppose. But I don't think we should raise cain about this. Seems almost like a setup or somethin'.

ANNIE

Hmmm, you're right. Anyways (she clears her throat) how do you think I did with the interns today? Pretty well right? They all seemed to like me?

MELLA

Uh, the looks on their faces seemed to express pain to me.

CITRINE

I'm gonna have to agree with Mella on this one. Please, please, please stay in the office tomorrow.

ANNIE

(scowling)

Oh, alright. Besides, I am going to have my arms full of work tomorrow so I couldn't spend time with them anyways, happy?

MELLA and CITRINE

Yes.

FIN

Inkwyrn is a production of Caldera Studios, and is produced by Phoenix Tyor, with editing assistance from Sarah Nihilum. This episode was written by Phoenix Tyor and Lily Baldwin. The voice of Mella Sonder was Anwesha Moitra. The voice of Annie Inkwyrn was Phoenix Tyor. The voice of M.O.R.I.S was Vincent Chow. The voice of Citrine Carvalia Alyssa Shomaude was Quinn Stiefbold. Additional voices provided by Marissa Ray, Lily Baldwin, Jack Pevy, and Shannon Smyth. All sound effects taken from soundbible.com. Questions, comments or concerns? Email us at [inkwyrn- that's i n k w y r m- podcast@gmail.com](mailto:inkwyrn-that's i n k w y r m- podcast@gmail.com), or find us on

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