

ACT I
SCENE 2

AT RISE: There is a calendar on SALEM's dorm room wall that has opening night circled in a red marker. There is one day (with Auditions written on it) crossed out, showing that there are 6 weeks until opening night. SALEM's room has a chair and small table with a laptop on top. SALEM's phone chimes with an incoming text message.

SALEM

“I'm not sure how long I'll be dealing with my family situation, but it's looking like at least a month. I'm figuring at this point, it makes more sense for you to direct. Although it's an unfortunate situation for me, I'm glad that you have so much experience. I don't know what I'd do if I didn't have you!” Why did I think it would be a good idea to lie on my resume? What made me think that a week of Intro to Theatre classes would be enough to apply to jobs and actually get them? It all would've worked out perfectly fine if I had just been assisting the director, instead of being the director.

SALEM has a few moments of panic before starting to breathe slowly and calmly.

SALEM (Cont.)

Okay. Okay. I can handle this. I have done nothing to deserve this, but I can handle it. All I need to do is cast a show. It's a simple task. I take the people who showed up and I tell them what part they got. It's easy. I can do it. I could do it if I had more notes than “Good singing. She hit all the notes, I think.” That's literally my only note. *(pause)* I'm screwed. I'm utterly screwed.

SALEM throws their head into their hands, stays there for a moment, then looks up again.

SALEM (*Cont.*)

Okay, think about what we talked about in class today. Maybe Ms. Nichols said something helpful. She talked about how actors often portray characters that are unlike themselves. Actors are multifaceted people whereas characters can become stereotypical caricatures of people. Stereotypes! That's it! Directors need to look past the way people present themselves and think about who they really are! I've got it! I might actually be able to do this. Plus, then I can brag to all my classmates that I'm single handedly destroying stereotypes in theatre forever. And I'll definitely get extra credit!

*SALEM begins furiously typing on their computer
as the lights fade.*