

THE STORM
By Sophia DeRise

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AUDITION- 4 m, 2 w, 1 flex

In this scene, Aunt Helen arrives unexpectedly.

(AT RISE: JASON and NINA talk to KEDWARDE in the living room. They are sitting around, he is standing.)

JASON: So, what exactly is Mark doing downstairs?

KEDWARDE: Sir, if I knew half the things Mark did in his basement, I'm sure I could save the world a lot of trouble.

NINA: He's totally insane. You know the only reason we had to stay here at all was because Aunt Helen didn't want us to be home alone while she was in the hospital. Honestly, staying here is one hundred percent more dangerous.

JASON: Yeah! He'd probably cut our heads off if we let him.

(They ALL laugh as MARK enters.)

KEDWARDE: Very funny, sir.

MARK: *(Laughs too, out-of-place and obnoxious.)* What? What is humorous?

(EVERYONE looks over to MARK and rolls their eyes.)

JASON: Nothing, Mark. Listen, I think we'd better head out now.

(JASON and NINA start to gather their things.)

MARK: I hope Kedwarde wasn't boring you to death. He's an excellent butler but really as dull as a doornail.

NINA: Right, well, that's not how the saying goes.

JASON: But that's cool, you do you and we'll do the thing where we leave and probably never come back. Okay, bye, Mark!

(MARK stands by, smiling as THEY begin to leave.)

MARK: Bye, cousins. I'll see you soooon.

(SFX: The doorbell rings. Mark's smile fades and he is confused.)

MARK: *(Cont'd.)* What the devil?

(JASON opens the door. Before anyone can see who's there, the LIGHTS flicker and there is a FX: Lightning flash revealing the silhouette of AUNT HELEN and MAVERICK. EVERYONE screams.)

NINA: Aunt Helen?!

(HELEN and MAVERICK enter.)

HELEN: What?! Who's that?!

NINA: Aunt Helen, it's me Nina. The one who's been living with you for the past six months?

HELEN: Oh, *Nina!* Be more specific next time. Where's your brother?

JASON: I'm right here. Aunt Helen, how did you get here?

HELEN: I flew.

JASON: Really?

HELEN: No! I walked, you dummy, how do you think I got here?

NINA: But your hip replacement...how did you—

HELEN: I recovered remarkably fast.

NINA: Wait, you did?

MARK: Of course she did, you and Jason told me that this morning when you were getting ready to leave... *(Gasps.)* You had no idea! You were lying to me?!!

HELEN: Of course they were lying to you, you're an idiot!
You'll believe anything.

MARK: It's good to see you too... *(Pause.) Helen.*

HELEN: Why do you have to pause like that? It makes you sound like lunatic!

MARK: It's for dramatic effect! You know what? Who told you you could come here?!

(MARK and HELEN begin to argue, JASON and NINA start to get involved, defending Helen. KEDWARDE stands there and eventually MAVERICK cuts in, authoritatively.)

MAVERICK: Excuse me! Is there a problem here?

MARK: Helen, you brought a cop?! Oh wait... *(Realizing he has illegal experiments in his basement, horrified.)* you brought a cop!

HELEN: Nooo, he brought *me!* He's my date!

MAVERICK: No, he's not, no, I'm not! My name is Maverick Corbin; I'm with the Maryland state police department. I found your aunt wandering the streets in the middle of this freak storm outside.

NINA: Aunt Helen, are you okay? What's going on out there?

JASON: Yeah, what storm? The sky was totally clear this morning.

MARK: No! No, I distinctly remember clouds!

NINA: No it was sunny. I remember thinking, 'what a beautiful day to run away from my crazy cousin.'

MARK: Really, you really thought exactly that?

MAVERICK: Listen, we're all confused here. This storm just blew in out of nowhere. To be honest with you, we're suspecting a synthetic storm. Some sort of fabrication device.

(EVERYONE is silent for a moment, in awe of the idea.)

MARK: Pfft! Ha! That's...stupid! Totally stupid, who even thought of that... that's stupid...

KEDWARDE: Subtle, sir.

(SFX: Phone rings offstage. KEDWARDE moves to answer it.)

KEDWARDE: *(Cont'd. As exiting.)* Excuse me.

MARK: Blast you, Kedwarde!

MAVERICK: Excuse me, sir, but is there something you know about this storm?

MARK: What? No, nothing at all!

MAVERICK: Are you absolutely positive—?

(As MAVERICK is beginning to question MARK, KEDWARDE enters.)

KEDWARDE: Excuse me, Officer Corbin.

MAVERICK: Yes?

KEDWARDE: I just got off the telephone with the police station. They were calling to ask you to stay inside, where you are.

MAVERICK: What, stay inside? Why?

KEDWARDE: They said *(Reading from the message he just took.)* "He just doesn't have enough experience, he'd slow us down, and he's annoying to work with."

(EVERYONE stares at HIM in silence for a moment, then AUNT HELEN bursts out laughing.)

HELEN: You're a noob!

KEDWARDE: If it's any consolation sir, everyone in the state is now required to stay indoors. The storm is simply too dangerous.

MAVERICK: What? Annoying to work with?! This is insane, I...I don't know what to say!

(MARK goes over to KEDWARDE and grabs his shoulders.)

MARK: How about: Blast you, Kedwarde! What is going on inside your small butler mind?!

MAVERICK: *(Grasping at dignity.)* Hey! Let go of that pale man!

MARK: This pale man just called you a horrible cop.

(AUNT HELEN starts laughing again. MONSTER appears at the top of the stairs.)

MONSTER: Hi, Mark.

(MARK pushes MONSTER out of view.)

MARK: Oh for the love of Victor Frankenstein!

NINA: What the heck. Who was that?

MAVERICK: *(Sulking, to HELEN.)* Would I really slow everyone down?

MARK: Kedwarde! The lab! Now!

(HELEN is still laughing at MAVERICK who is sitting down on the couch, depressed. As MARK leaves dramatically, KEDWARDE solemnly follows. JASON and NINA watch Mark leave.)

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