

UNABRIDGED

"Unmistaken Hostage"

Ep 1.02

written by

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1

COLD OPEN: INT. OFFICE

1

LANI

Hey guys, instead of the usual meeting today I have somebody **very special** I'd like you to meet!

*

KIRRAN

What, you gonna pull out a puppet that tells us not to do drugs?

*

*

*

GRANT

You can't make me stop.

*

*

SCOTT

Is that what they told you? Mine just told us **not to** be gay.

*

*

STEPHAN

Wait, really?

*

SCOTT

I went to a very Christian school.

1B

INT. STAGE - PUPPET SHOW

1B

We see a video shot on VHS, dated 1999. A shoddily-made **lion** puppet can be seen in front of a black curtain.

*

LOGO: Finding Christ with T.J. **Pryde!**

*

TJ

*

What do we say to Satan, kids?

(sung)

W---e s---ay,

Nay, nay, nay to the gay, gay, gay

No, no, no to the ho, ho, mo!

Absolutely not to

Sucking lots of c--!

SMASH CUT TO:

1C

INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

1C

SCOTT

Pretty sure it **just made** me a **furry**.
That and **King Richard** from **Robin Hood**.
The Disney one.

*

*

*

KIRRAN

Yeah, **he's** a daddy.

*

*

(CONTINUED)

LANI
(raised voice)
Speaking of daddies...

*

Lani knocks on the table, and a young boy crawls out from underneath the table. The guys react.

*
*

LANI (CONT'D)
I'd like you all to meet my son!

*
*

The room sits in stunned silence.

TITLE SEQUENCE

INT. MEETING ROOM

SCOTT
Nick... why do you have a "son?"

GRANT
Have you had a secret kid this whole time?

KIRRAN
Is he a bastard?

LANI
No, I adopted him!

KIRRAN
Doesn't mean he's not a bastard.

*
*

STEPHAN
Wait. So when you say "adopted" do you mean you went to an agency, went through the whole official process, got approved, and then signed legally binding adoption papers for this child?

*

LANI
Uh, well...

STEPHAN
...Lani, did you kidnap a kid?

LANI
Look, the specifics are--

SCOTT
ANSWER THE QUESTION NICK.

LANI
...I did not sign adoption papers.

2 CONTINUED:

2

STEPHAN

...You know what? I just remembered I'm sick. Yeah. I've been sick all day, and I was never here today. Got it? I was never here.

*
*
*
*
*

Stephan exits.

*

KIRРАН

...Who was that?

*
*3 LANI TALKING HEAD

3 *

LANI

So, I was hanging out in the mall, buying dippin' dots in bulk, when I noticed a kid was crying. I went to see what was wrong, and he said he couldn't find his mom. So, I decided to help look. We looked for, like, ever!

Then it hit me. She just left him there. She abandoned him. This kid was completely unwanted. And it was right then when I decided... I was ready to be a father.

4 INT. MEETING ROOM

4 *

SCOTT

YOU KIDNAPPED A CHILD?!

LANI

When you put it that way you make it sound bad.

SCOTT

It IS bad, Nick! It's a felony! Why didn't you take him to the cops?

*
*

LANI

(silence)

*

SCOTT

Nick?

LANI

...I'm scared of cops.

SCOTT

Seriously?

*

GRANT

Why? You're white.

*

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

Silence.

SCOTT

Jesus, dude.

GRANT

Someone's gotta say it.

*

KIRRAN

(through cupped hands)
Fuck the police!

*

Lani gasps and clasps his hands around the kid's ears.

LANI

How dare you talk that way in front of
Lanipa-two!

5 LANI TALKING HEAD

5 *

The kid plays video games in the background, probably something insanely violent.

LANI

Kaiser's yelling at me about calling his mom and stuff, but she didn't even care enough about him not to lose him! Some mom! Plus, where would we even find her phone number?

*

KID

(recites phone number)

LANI

What was that?

KID

My mom's phone number. She made me learn it in case I get lost.

*

LANI

(begrudgingly)
...Fine. A better parent wouldn't lose him, though.

*

*

6 INT. MEETING ROOM

6

Lani stands at the table, dialing the number.

Zito suddenly runs in with a brown paper bag. He slaps the phone out of Lani's hand.

LANI

Hey! I was on the phone.

*

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

ZITO
Don't use your phone, you idiot! Use
this one.

LANI
Why this one?

ZITO
Just do it!

7 ZITO TALKING HEAD

7

ZITO
...What? I don't have to explain myself
to you.

*
*

8 INT. MEETING ROOM

8 *

Lani dials, then sets the phone on the table. The phone
rings, then stops ringing. Voicemail plays.

LANI
No answer, guess that's it then.

SCOTT
(whispered)
Leave a goddamn message!

LANI
(groans)
Fine!

Beep.

LANI (CONT'D)
(grumpy)
Hey, uh, so... we have your kid. So,
uh... call me back whenever you get this
if you ever want him back.

*

Scott glares at Nick.

LANI (CONT'D)
What?

SCOTT
Your shitty attitude, that's what!

9 INT. REC ROOM

9

B-ROLL: Kirran and Grant play with the kid.

10 INT. MEETING ROOM

10

TEXT: 15 MINUTES LATER

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

Phone rings. Lani answers.

LANI

Y'ello?

MOTHER

(Clearly shaken)

Um... this is Leona.

*
*

LANI

...Okay?

MOTHER

You... have my son?

LANI

Oh! Right, one sec lemme put you on speaker.

He does, sets the phone on the table.

LANI (CONT'D)

Alright, Leona, we hear you loud and clear!

*
*

MOTHER

What do you need me to do?

SCOTT

Well, I'm thinking we just give you a location and we just hand him off to you and it's as simple as that.

MOTHER

...That's it? You won't hurt him?

SCOTT

Oh-- oh, god no! We don't want to hurt anybody.

MOTHER

Oh... oh thank god. That's--

LANI

But we want you to bring a hundred thousand dollars in cash.

SCOTT

(whispered)

What are you doing?!

(CONTINUED)

LANI

(whispered)

If I'm going to hand off this kid to some random lady I need to know that he'll be taken care of! The college tuitions are crazy expensive, Scott!

SCOTT

(whispered)

She's his mother!

LANI

(whispered)

I want Lani Junior to have a bright future, Scott! Apparently you don't want the same!

MOTHER

Hello? Are you still there?

SCOTT

Oh, yes! Sorry about that.

MOTHER

(breaking down)

I... I don't have that kind of money, I-

-

SCOTT

You know what ma'am, that's fine. We'll just--!

LANI

No, no, it isn't fine! If you don't bring the money we're keeping him!

SCOTT

NICK!

Grant chases the kid around, wearing a scary mask. The kid screams as he runs by the meeting room.

MOTHER

Oh my god! What are you doing to him?!

SCOTT

He's fine ma'am! There's nothing wrong--!

LANI

Listen lady, either you bring us the money or you don't get to have him! Also, no cops!

Lani hangs up the phone. Silence.

LANI (CONT'D)

I think that went well.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (3) 10
 Scott glares at Lani.

11 INT. REC ROOM 11
 [Improvised scene - Kirran and Grant discuss how they're going to involve the kid in Team Four Star.]

12 INT. MEETING ROOM 12
 Scott and Lani sit on the couches, waiting.

SCOTT
 ...You know she's definitely talking to the cops right now, right?

LANI
 What? But I said no cops!

SCOTT
 You may as well have said: "Hey! Come follow me into this dark alley, ignore the knife!" *

LANI
 Well, I'm sorry, I'm scared of them! I have coprophobia! *

SCOTT
Why? *

13 NEWS PAPER CLIPPING 13 *
 TITLE: Hero Cop Tackles Loudest Child in Town *

14 INT. MEETING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 14 *
 LANI
 (to Scott)
 She's not gonna call the cops! You're just being cynical! *

The phone on the table rings, Lani answers.

LANI (CONT'D)
 Hey, Leona! Wassap? *

NEGOTIATOR
 Hello sir, my name is Lionel but you can just call me Leo. *

LANI
 Uh... hi Leo, are you the man of the house? *

(CONTINUED)

NEGOTIATOR

What? No, I'm just here to make sure nobody gets hurt.

Scott mouths the word "cop" to Lani.

NEGOTIATOR (CONT'D)

Would you be okay with giving me a name? Just so I have something to refer to you by?

LANI

Sure, my name is--

Scott quickly covers his mouth.

SCOTT

Theo! And I'm Cleo. Theo and Cleo.

*

NEGOTIATOR

Ah, well hey there Theo, Cleo. Could I get some confirmation that the boy is safe over there?

*

LANI

Sure, absolutely, you can hear what a great job I've been doing.

Scott runs to get the kid, comes back with him.

KID

Hello?

NEGOTIATOR

Hey there, kiddo! We're gonna get you back to your mommy soon, okay?

KID

Okay.

LANI

(upset at this)

Yeah, okay, alright, that's enough.

He shoos the kid out of the room.

LANI (CONT'D)

Let's get down to brass tacks here, we're gonna give you a location and you're gonna show us a hundred-thou. Got it?

NEGOTIATOR

You're asking for a lot here, Theo.

*

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (2)

14

LANI

Yeah well, this kid is worth a lot!

GRANT (O.S.)

Not that we'd expect a racist-ass cop to understand! *

NEGOTIATOR

Who was that, Theo? How many people you got in there? *

LANI

Don't worry about it, Leo. Can you get the money? *

NEGOTIATOR

Well, I'll do my best, but that kind of money isn't easy to come by--

LANI

Then we're keeping the kid!

Lani hangs up.

SCOTT

Theo? Walk out of this room. *

LANI

Why?

SCOTT

Because if you don't I am going to [improvised threat].

LANI

...Yeah, that's a pretty good reason.

Lani exits.

15 SCOTT TALKING HEAD

15

SCOTT

Alright, so, me and Nick had a talk. I... tried to be delicate.

SMASH CUT TO:

16 INT. ENTRYWAY - SUNDOWN

16

SCOTT

You're a fucking idiot! What's deluded you into thinking you're even equipped to take care of a child?

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

LANI

My paternal instincts will kick in and I'll just know!

SCOTT

Taking care of a kid isn't the same as feeding some animal everyday!

LANI

Hey! Mr. Stake is a member of the family, not "some animal!" If you were both hanging onto a cliff and I could only save one of you, I'd choose him immediately.

*
*
*

SCOTT

Immediately? Really?

LANI

No question.

SCOTT

Wow...
(shaking his head)
That's not the point! Nick... the kid needs to go home.

Nick ponders this.

LANI

(sighs)
...I guess you're right.

*
*

SCOTT

Where is he?

*
*

LANI

He's just watching kids' stuff on YouTube, I'll go get him.

*
*
*

17 INT. GAMING ROOM

17

The kid watches TV, the homophobic song from the cold open can be heard from it.

*
*

LANI

C'mon kid. It's time to go home.

*
*

18 INT. MEETING ROOM - SUNDOWN

18

Scott faces the wall opposite the door, over his shoulder through the door we see Lani running past with the kid. Scott notices out of the corner of his eye and runs to the doorway.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

SCOTT
 [Ad-libbed reassuring to the mother]
 Wha--? NICK!

19 INT. LANI'S CAR, DRIVING - MOMENTS LATER

19

Lani drives the car with the kid in the backseat.

LANI
 You're gonna love your new home! I haven't told my wife I've adopted a kid yet, but I know she'll be psyched about this drastic new change I'm introducing into our lives! I can't wait for you to meet her and my dog, Mr. Stake--

KID
 I miss my mom.

*

Lani looks shocked to hear this, then has a moment of sad reflection.

LANI
 Well... I've been really selfish about this, huh kid? All this time I've been worrying about whether or not I was ready to be a father, and I never considered whether you--

KID
 And I'm allergic to dogs.

Lani's demeanor instantly changes to quietly furious.

SMASH CUT TO:

20 INT. OFFICE, ENTRYWAY - NIGHT

20

Lani storms into the office and past Scott, who is on the phone.

SCOTT
 I know, I'm sorry, he won't answer his--

LANI
 He's at the fucking mall!

SCOTT
 (double take)
 Wh--! The mall's closed!

KIRRAN/GRANT
 [Ad-libbed disappointment]

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

SCOTT
(to the phone)
Did you catch that? Good. You can just
pick him up any--

Zito rips the phone out of Scott's hand, throws it on the
ground, and **stomps** it to bits.

*

ZITO
(a beat)
We never talk about this to anybody. Got
that?

21 EXT. MALL - NIGHT

21

The kid quietly stands in front of the mall, alone.

KID KID *
...Why are you just filming ALT: *
me? You people are weird. (Hums homophobic song) *

CREDITS ROLL

END OF EPISODE