

SUPERMODELS IN JEOPARDY

by
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Cast of Characters

ANDI, mid 20s to mid 30s

BOB, slightly older than Andi but lower on the corporate ladder

EDEM, female, age flexible, agent to the supermodel stars

WENDY, female, college age and relentlessly perky

FIRE CAPTAIN, male, old enough to be a parent

HEIDI JECKEL, female, age flexible, tabloid reporter

For a smaller cast, it is possible for Eden and Heidi Jeckel to be doubled. For an even smaller cast (or if you have very few men), it is possible to make the Fire Captain a woman and have the Fire Captain, Eden and Heidi Jeckel all played by the same actor.

(ANDI, female, anywhere from late 20s on up, stands in a spotlight, perhaps in front of a podium. The FLASH of CAMERAS. It's a press conference.)

ANDI

At 3:04 this afternoon--that's Pacific Daylight Time--the Charles Darwin Memorial Convention Center suffered a partial collapse. While we were able to evacuate the building within minutes, I regret to announce that a small group of supermodels, who as you are aware are here for the International Supermodel Expo... A small group of supermodels--not even a group--a handful...a small handful of supermodels were unable to evacuate and are currently...trapped. I hesitate to use the word trapped--detained, as in delayed, is more accurate. A small group of supermodels are detained inside their dressing room. Rest assured that we are making every effort to free them, and the supermodels want their fans around the world to know that they are in good spirits and still looking 75 to 80 times more attractive than you. I will be back with an update as soon as I have one. God bless.

VOICES FROM THE DARK

Which supermodels are still inside?
Could you give us their names?
Has anyone been injured?
Will the Expo go on?
Do you have photos?
Have you secured an alternate location?
Do you believe that this is the work of terrorists?

ANDI

No questions right now, but I know that the supermodels appreciate--

VOICES FROM THE DARK

Could you comment on reports that a group called People for More Realistic Eating Habits has claimed resp--

ANDI

No comment.

(The spotlight goes out, leaving Andi in an office that has become a makeshift command center. BOB, a little older but outranked by Andi and looking very tired, looks like he's been watching the press conference. Sounds of exploratory PINGING and TAPPING, as well as CROWD NOISE, in the background.)

Why do people assume that every time something bad happens, there must be terrorists involved?

BOB

People for More Realistic Eating Habits were the ones who kidnapped models' lapdogs so that--

ANDI

Never heard of them. It was a bad building--end of story. Of course we didn't know that at the time we booked it and were assured it was completely safe, but...I felt fat out there.

BOB

You aren't fat.

ANDI

(to herself)

Just ride it out.

(taking a deep breath)

We are all beautiful. I am beautiful. I am beautiful.

(Andi takes another deep breath and smiles. Beat.)

BOB

Thank God we got most of them out.

ANDI

We didn't.

BOB

We didn't.

ANDI

That's right.

BOB

You're saying we didn't get most of them out?

ANDI

I'm saying we didn't get any of them out.

BOB

Any? But that's--

ANDI

Every supermodel in the world, except for the two guys from Iceland who missed their connection in Toronto. Have you seen Heather Lynn?

BOB

Who flies through Toronto? Why didn't they fly through New York?

ANDI

I don't know, Bob. But it's looking like a pretty good decision. Have you seen her?

BOB

I didn't realize it was my job to keep track of the interns.

ANDI

Is that a no?

BOB

Not since this morning.

(beat)

So at least the models are in good spirits then.

(beat)

You said they were in good spirits.

(beat)

They're not in good spirits?

(There is a BANGING at the DOOR. EDEN sweeps into the room. She is fabulously overdressed: definitely an agent.)

EDEN

This is a disaster.

ANDI

We prefer to think of it as...

BOB

A challenge?

EDEN

Where is

(with a flourish every time she says the word, particularly the final syllable)

LaLaLa? Why has she not been rescued by now?

ANDI

(Beat. Lying)

Of course she has.

EDEN

Good. Take me to her.

ANDI

That's not possible right now.

EDEN

I am her agent. I demand to see her immediately.

ANDI

She's resting.

EDEN

I will watch over LaLaLa while she sleeps.

ANDI

She gave strict orders not to be disturbed.

EDEN

Not my LaLaLa! Now I demand that you tell me where she is,
or I'll--

BOB

She fired you.

(beat)

My colleague just didn't know how to say it.

EDEN

No.

BOB

Yes.

EDEN

No!

ANDI

(going along with it)

I'm so sorry.

EDEN

But...but--

ANDI

As soon as we got her out, she said she'd had an epiphany.

EDEN

(breaking down)

But LaLaLa never has epiphanies. She's just beautiful.

ANDI

I know. But being in a building collapse is a life-changing
event.

BOB

I believe those were her exact words.

EDEN

(bawling)

She used the words "life-changing"?

BOB

No sooner had we gotten her out, then she did that thing...

ANDI

That hair flip thing she does.

(Andi and Bob flip their hair in unison.)

And then she said, "I'm having an epiphany. Being in a building collapse is a life-changing event. I should make a life change. I'm firing my agent."

(ushering Eden toward the door)

Now if you'll excuse us.

EDEN

But--

ANDI

If you love LaLaLa, you'll let her rest. Perhaps she's overtired and will reconsider.

BOB

I'd give it a week.

(They push Eden out and close the door behind her.)

ANDI

Thank you.

BOB

So are you saying they're not in good spirits down in that dressing room?

ANDI

They may be in great spirits.

BOB

May?

ANDI

We can't make contact.

BOB

So that whole business about them wanting their fans to know...

ANDI

It seemed like something they'd say.

BOB

(beat)

Wow.

ANDI
(beat)

Wow?

(pause)

Bob?

BOB
I'm starting to feel positively joyous that I got passed over for that promotion.

ANDI
I had nothing to do with that.

BOB
If I had gotten the job that was rightfully mine, I'd be stuck holding the bag. Like you are.

ANDI
You know it wasn't my fault you got--

BOB
Thank you for stealing my job!

(Enter WENDY the intern, a bright-eyed, bushy-tailed college student--maybe too bright-eyed and bushy-tailed.)

WENDY
I've got them! I had to call Barney Rub over at Granite Management, who gave me the cell number for Wilma Flint at Bedrack Entertainment, but that turns out to be her public number--which is just a recording telling people she loves us--when what I really needed was her private number, which I got after I begged her second assistant for seven minutes and promised to work the next two Saturdays in her office buffing headshots. And once I finally got Wilma on the phone, which only took four tries because I kept getting kicked to voicemail and I felt I should talk to her in person about this, she was totally helpful. Gave her my name, address, phone number, major credit card, last four digits of my social and my mother's maiden name and I was in. I have She Who is Too Gorgeous To Be Named's cell number, and she's on the line!

(Andi and Bob rush for the phone. Bob gets to it first.)

BOB
(into the phone)
Hello?

(Bob listens. Beat. He looks at the phone in puzzlement. Andi snatches it from him.)

ANDI

Hello?

(listens)

Who is this?

(to Wendy and Bob)

This is some guy.

WENDY

No!

ANDI

(into the phone)

Hold on.

(Andi hands Wendy the phone.)

WENDY

(into the phone)

Hello? Who is this?

(listens)

This is Wendy. I'd like to speak with You Know Who.

(to Andi and Bob)

I know this is the right number.

(into the phone)

You *know* who. The whole reason I can say You Know Who is because everyone knows when I say You Know Who who I'm talking about.

(to Andi and Bob)

He says he doesn't know.

ANDI

(to Bob)

Is that possible?

BOB

There was a man who had been kept in an underground cave by his mother for eleven years. I believe his reaction to the mention of You Know Who was something along the lines of "that rings a bell." He stopped talking after that, and people who were there at the time think he was lying. He subsisted entirely on a diet of organic breakfast cereal and mixed greens, no dressing. The mixed greens were only occasionally organic.

WENDY

(into the phone)

Excuse me, but do you happen to be trapped in a dressing room of a collapsed convention center with a lot of astoundingly gorgeous people?