

ARDEN, Episode 10:

“The Friends We Made Along The Way Did It”

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NOTE:

ADVERTISEMENT

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OUTRO

ANDY: Tired of waiting in line at the airport? Tired of waiting for your bags at the baggage claim with the hoi polloi? Then come fly with Wheyface Airlines! Where instead of desperately trying to signal the stewardess, you have your own personal in-flight robotic servant - at some point, once they stop trying to take over the planes! Where instead of waiting to go through security, our extensive pre-airport background check guarantees you're only flying with Good People! And you can even bring weapons on! If you don't have any weapons you can purchase them in flight! You will need them to defend yourself against the robots, once we get the robots.

Wheyface Airlines. Come fly with the Good People.

[plane noise]

BEA: Welcome, improbably, to a new episode of Arden.

BRENDA: It's not improbable that there's a new episode, we weren't gonna leave it like at the end of the last one.

BEA: That's not what I meant. We have twelve episodes we're supposed to do, and last one was, what... ten?

BRENDA: Last one was nine, this is ten.

BEA: Jesus.

BRENDA: Ready to be done with me, Casely?

BEA: No, that's not what I meant - sorry. Just a little tense because of our... unusual surroundings. So, uh, for our listeners... there was a bit of a scheduling foul-up. We were supposed to record this last night, but someone wasn't here --

BRENDA: I said I was sorry!

BEA: And as a result --

BRENDA: We're on a plane!

BEA: Yes. A Wheyface Airlines flight to Verona, Italy.

BRENDA: Where at the end of this voyage, we shall finally have an answer. We hope.

BEA: Yes. It's not going to be all the answers, but to the biggest question, it will be an answer.

BRENDA: To the biggest questions we have, at least. To the biggest questions, I'll need to break out the ol' koans for that.

BEA: That's - anyways. At the end of this flight. We hope to finally answer: is Julie Capsom alive, and if so what happened. Why did she run? Whose torso was in the trunk? And why has she stayed hidden all these years?

That'll have to wait for the end of the flight. But we were contractually obligated to deliver an episode this week anyway, and this, somehow, was the only time we could record.

BRENDA: Don't forget the other part.

BEA: I don't want to talk about the other part, you talk about the other part!

BRENDA: Flip you for it.

BEA: All right. Fine.

BRENDA: Call it.

BEA: Heads.

Oh, come on!

BRENDA: Sorry, my friend.

BEA: Let me see that coin!

BRENDA: Are you saying I have a rigged coin? I'm not Batman villain Two-Face!

BEA: I am well-aware of the works of Two-Face.

You know, they can't see the coin. I could totally say it's a rigged coin and it'd be your word against mine.

BRENDA: Except they just recorded you saying that. That would be very two-faced of you.

BEA: Yeah, yeah. OK. Oooooooooook.

...So, remember a few weeks ago when we had an advertisement on the show, "Win a spot on the Wheyface Meet-A-Celeb Flight to the Stars"? Because I sure didn't. But a whole bunch of you submitted to that.

BRENDA: We love our fans!

BEA: Yes, we do. Please rate, review, subscribe, etc. But what, you may ask, does that advertisement have to do with the fact that we're recording on a plane?

BRENDA: I think they can figure it out.

BEA: Right.

[opens curtain]

BEA: Hello, Wheyface Meet-A-Celeb Flight to the Stars contest winners!

[a babble of voices, including "Who are you?" and "I thought we were gonna meet Sean Stone!"]

BEA: ...We'll check in with you later.

[shuts curtain]

BEA:This is going to be a long [bleep] flight.

[theme song plays]

BEA: On December 25, 2007, somewhere around 11 pm, Julie Capsom ran her car off the road and into a tree halfway between Eureka and Crescent City, California, in the middle of northern California's most desolate stretch of major highway. A handful of witnesses saw her pacing outside her car, but by the time the police arrived, she had vanished. While dogs picked up her scent heading into the trees, it abruptly stopped in the middle of a forest clearing. What happened to Julie that Christmas night? How could someone that well-known vanish, in the United States in the 2000s? And why has this case haunted us ever since? Each week, we'll try to step through a different part of the story and see if we can't unravel this web and find the answers. Join us, won't you, as we unravel the mystery... on Arden.

[theme song ends]

BEA: Pilot?

ROSALIND: What can I do for ya, boss?

BEA: ...What? How?

ROSALIND: Well, the how of it is that I got my pilot's license. Neat, isn't it?

ANDY: And very proud we all were!

ROSALIND: Right on, copilot Mr. Wheyface!

[high-five]

BEA: Y'know what... normally I would say "I have a lot of questions right now," but I won't. I *refuse* to have questions. Of course this is what would happen.

ROSALIND: Didn't you have a question when you entered the cockpit - which, now that I think about it, she probably shouldn't be able to do?

ANDY: Hmmm. That's a good point. Should I have security bar her, Captain Rosalind?

ROSALIND: Stand down, copilot. He's a good man, y'know, always thinking about the safety of the crew. So what was your question?

BEA: Well, my question was "You wanted to see me," which was very confusing because I thought you were just, uh, the pilot, but it makes a little more sense now. I do have a new question, though, Mr. Wheyface - what is this episode about?

ANDY: Pardon?

BEA: It's your schedule we're trying to meet here - you want us to record an episode - well, we're on a plane? Flying to find Julie Capsom? Not like... we can actually do a whole lot.

ANDY: Oh, I think things have been getting a little intense - that conspiracy board you did last time was quite... impressive. I've seen this kind of wild-eyed behavior before - back when I was a boy, Father Mapplethorpe once led our congregation up to the top of a mountain, where for our Christmas sermon, with a similar fire in his eye, instead of our typical sacred texts, he began a reading from Jonathan Livingston Seagull -- well, you can guess the rest. So consider this a breather episode!

BEA: A breather episode. Now.

ANDY: Right before the big push! You've certainly earned it! All these wild twists and turns - just, take it easy for a few hours. Sit back, relax, and you and Brenda enjoy the many fine services of Wheyface Airlines!

BEA: Oh ...Is this episode really just a big advertisement for Wheyface Airlines?

ANDY: Bea, in the end, Wheyface Airlines - and indeed, Wheyface Industries - is the friends we made along the way.

BEA: What? No it isn't --

ROSALIND: Are you saying we're not all friends, Bea?

ANDY: Bea, no!

STEWARDESS (OVER RADIO): Captain Ursula, Brenda Bentley has locked herself in the bathroom, claiming to be unwell.

BEA: Oh, man. I should go see how she is.

ANDY: Indeed! Can't have the main two separated too long!

ROSALIND: Besides, we need to concentrate on keeping this bird in the air, so to speak!

BEA: Yes. Yes. Please do that. Because if you don't, I will come back and I will haunt you...r ghosts. I'll haunt your ghosts!

[door shutting]

ANDY: ...Can ghosts haunt other ghosts? Y'know, I've never really thought about it. What an interesting question.

ROSALIND: Eyes on the controls, copilot.

ANDY: Righty-ho.

ROSALIND: And I don't see why they shouldn't? You gonna tell a ghost they can't haunt another ghost?

ANDY: Ay-ay, captain.

[vomiting sound]

[door knocking]

BEA: Brenda? You OK in there?

BRENDA: The knocking's not helping.

BEA: Aw, jeez. Is that where you were last night?

BRENDA: What?

BEA: We were supposed to record this episode. Remember? I mean, obviously you didn't remember because you weren't there.

BRENDA: Oh, riiiiii ---

[vomiting]

BEA: Jesus, Brenda. What did you do?

BRENDA: What I did is my own private business, OK?

BEA: I can't believe it. The night before we go out to track down someone we've been looking for for ten years, someone we have each built at least one conspiracy wall over and you.... You get blotto!

BRENDA: Didja ever think I might just have the flu?

BEA: ...Do you have the flu? Because if you do, coming on a plane is highly irresponsible --

BRENDA: Can't win with ya, can I?

BEA: Sorry. Do you need anything?

BRENDA: ... Some ginger ale would be nice.

BEA: Sure. No problem.

[chatter]

BEA: Miss? Miss?

STEWARDESS: Welcome to Wheyface Flight #10! My name is Abbibeth, how can I help you, you Good Person you?

BEA: Flight... #10?

STEWARDESS: Yes! The big 1-0! Very excited we all are.

BEA: Uh-huh. Do you have any ginger ale?

STEWARDESS: Let me see if I have anything in the cart...

BEA: Are those.... Packets of - oh, no.

STEWARDESS: Ah ha! Found it: I have a nice packet of Wheyface Industries Nonalcoholic Dehydrated Drinks for Adults Who Don't Booze Up Ginger-ish Ale.

BEA: You know what? Never mind.

STEWARDESS: It has ethically DNA-altered ginger!

BEA: How exactly did they alter the DNA?

STEWARDESS: Ethically.

[over the radio]

ROSALIND: This is Captain Rosalind Ursula welcoming you to Flight #10 to Verona, Italy! It's the big 1-0 here at Wheyface Airlines, and very proud we all are of that. I would also like to invite our first contest winner to come to first class and meet with our celebrities! Uh, work out between yourselves who gets to go first.

BEA: Aw, great. You know what, you got any packets of Merlot there?

STEWARDESS: One Wheyface Industries Dehydrated Drinks for Adults Mer-lot coming right up!

BEA: Uh huh.

STEWARDESS: It's a 2005. A great year for wine! Sideways won best screenplay, fantastic press for the wine industry.

BEA: Uh huh. Listen... get that ginger ale... substitute to my friend in the bathroom, OK? And let me know when she's feeling better.

BEA: Are you the first contest winner?

REGINALD: Why yes, I am.

BEA: All right. Well congratulations, you get to say you met a celebrity. After all, Variety did run a cover story on me calling me a "Podcast Pro".

REGINALD: I know.

BEA:You do?

REGINALD: Reginald DeCoursay III, big fan of the show.

BEA: That's - well, nice to meet you, Reginald.

REGINALD: I must say, it is quite lovely to get to meet a reporter - I thought it would be those most dreadful hillbillies from Grunty McMurtry.

BEA: Legally I can't express any opinions on Grunty McMurtry.

REGINALD: I do have a question, though.

BEA: Just one? You're lucky.

REGINALD: Throughout the series, you've vaguely alluded to Julie's Law.

BEA: Oh, my God. Thank you. I had an entire episode planned on Julie's Law - its proponents, its critics, its Constitutionality, but instead, we're doing... this.

REGINALD: Pardon?

BEA: All right. In summation: Julie's Law removes pretty much all privacy rights from minors, where their parents are concerned. Phone tracking, license to read emails, monitoring through webcams - you name it.

REGINALD: But that's positively dreadful! And rife with the possibility for abuse!

BEA: And yet that's what Robert Capsom has spent his twilight years pushing.

REGINALD: I certainly wouldn't want my parents nicking around my private business, thank you very much!

BEA: Cheers to that.

REGINALD: Why, I remember when I went to Bowdoin --

BEA: ...Dammit. And we were getting along so well.

REGINALD: Look, I don't get what anyone has against Bowdoin - just because we have lobster dinners --

BEA: It's always about the lobster dinners! You and my brother! Did they put mind-control drugs in the lobster?!

REGINALD: They didn't have to. It was delicious.

[sound cut]

BEA: ...And then he went on about the lobster dinners and Portland and Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain at length until I faked passing out and he left.

BRENDA (through restroom door): Bowdoin. Am I right?

BEA: Yeah. You, uh... feeling better?

BRENDA: A bit. Gonna camp in here for a bit until I'm sure.

BEA: Oh. OK. ...Mind if I sit here for awhile?

BRENDA: Aren't you blocking the aisle?

BEA: Probably.

BRENDA: Lorena didn't come with you?

BEA: Huh? It's not a vacation, Bentley.

BRENDA: Just thought she might find it interesting - it's the kind of case that's up her alley --

BEA: She had work to do on her Dog Cop season anyway.

BRENDA: Oh, man, she's doing a season on Dog Cop? That show was the best --

[plane ding!]

STEWARDESS: Ms. Casely, your producer wants to talk to you back in Coach. Says it's an emergency.

BEA: Oh. Oh, boy. Uh - I'll be back.

BRENDA: I ain't goin' nowhere.

[chatter; crying baby]

ASSHOLE DAD: I always think it's just better to let 'em cry it out, y'know? Most of the time they're not even cryin' about nothin'.

PAMELA: C'mon, man. Don't you even want to try to feed your kid? Maybe he's just hungry.

ASSHOLE DAD: Push off, lady. I know you think, 'cause you're a lady, you know my kid better than me, but I know my own kid. He ate, like, five hours ago, he's fine.

PAMELA: Sir, no offense, but I am going to murder you. I am going to murder you and the second season of my murder podcast will be about my acquittal because letting a baby cry on an airplane --

BEA: What's up?

PAMELA: Why'd you stick me in coach?

BEA: Is that what you wanted to talk about?

PAMELA: I had to pay my own way!

BEA: Yes, we all know this isn't ideal - sir, can you shut that baby up?

ASSHOLE DAD: Whoa. Check out the balls on this [beep]--

STEWARDESS: You bite your tongue! Sir, I'm going to have to take you to Flight Jail, one count of abusive language, one count of letting a baby cry, and one count of not being a Good Person, as expressly in the contract when you purchased a ticket for Wheyface Air.

PAMELA: C'mon. Let 'em deal with this.

[moving; arguing in the background]

BEA: What's up?

PAMELA: So I plugged into the wi-fi and --

[sounds of a man being tasered in the background]

BEA: Holy [beep]!

PAMELA: Eh, the kid's better off with Wheyface Industries. Anyways, I figured I'd check the news, try to keep abreast of things, and - well, here.

BEA: Oh, my God.

[sound of running]

STEWARDESS: Ms. Casely, please don't run --

[knocking on door]

BRENDA: Hey! I'm tryin' to recover here!

BEA: Get your sick butt out here, because we have a serious problem --

BRENDA: First, would you mind clarifying what you mean by "sick butt," because don't you have a girlfriend --

BEA: Not. Now.

BRENDA: Whoa, Casely. All right. Serious face. Serious Brenda.

ANDY(over the PA system): And might I remind our Podcast Pro that this is all being recorded for her podcast and, because podcasts are an audio medium, please state whatever has you in such a tizzy clearly for the record.

BEA: All right. Yes, of course, Mr. Wheyface --

ANDY: You're being broadcast to the entire plane! It's kind of like a live podcast! Isn't that exciting?

BEA: ANDY, NOT THE TIME!

BRENDA: Bea. What's. Wrong?

BEA: OK. Deep breath. Kail McPherson has just been arrested for the murders of Julie Capsom and Ralph Montgomery.

ANDY(over the PA system): ...Well, there goes our breather episode.

[commercial music]

BEA: Bathrobes. We all love them. They're all so luxuriant in their finery. They make you feel like a god, or at least a degenerate Roman emperor.

Andy, this is the second time these ads have referenced --

ANDY: I was listening to a podcast about the fall of Rome! It inspired me!

I recognize that expression. You look like you have a joke you want to make.

BEA: No, I don't.

ANDY: Is it about the horse consul? Bea, do you really think I would put a horse on my corporate board of directors?

BEA: Can I just do the ad?

ANDY: Just imagine getting a horse up the elevator to the 500th floor! And you'd need to keep hay in the breakroom. Ridiculous!

BEA: But there's one problem: how do you eat in your bathrobe? Imagine: it's a cold winter night, and you want some delicious tomato soup. Oh, no, you've got big sleeves on your bathrobe, and you have to keep rolling them up! That's no good. Or worse: you spill your soup all over them, slopping your golden sleeves with deep red tomato. And who has the time for laundry nowadays? I don't, because I'm a busy podcast personality! And I don't have a manservant to do the laundry for me!

Now there's a solution: the waterproof bathrobe! All of the luxury of a bathrobe, with a waterproof exterior to prevent spillage... Mr. Wheyface, this is actually pretty good.

ANDY: It came to me when I was eating soup! In my bathrobe.

BEA: You know, Lorena was making me some hot tea last night, and I ended up spilling it all over my bathrobe --

ANDY: Oh, my dear, isn't that just the worst?

BEA: And you constantly have to be shifting your sleeves out of the way, it's so awkward, but you want the big puffy sleeves, that's part of the fun of a bathrobe - how much are these?

ANDY: You can find out by continuing to read the advertisement!

BEA: OH, uh, right. For the low, low price of --

[door sound]

BRENDA [off mic]: What's up?

BEA: We're recording an ad!

BRENDA: Right, sorry.

ANDY: For my new waterproof bathrobe!

BRENDA: A what? ...You do realize that goes against the entire point of a bathrobe, right?

ANDY: Uh...

BRENDA: Bathrobes absorb water. How could you make one that's waterproof? ...Wait, isn't that just a poncho? Did you just invent ponchos?

ANDY: But it's for food --

BEA: Haven't you ever tried to eat soup in a bathrobe?

BRENDA: It's a poncho!

[grabs mic]

BRENDA: Food ponchos, copyright Brenda Bentley, 2018.

ANDY: ...You clever devil.

[commercial music ends]

BRENDA (behind the bathroom door): Run that by me again.

BEA: For Julie and Ralph. But... Julie's alive.

BRENDA: If you're right. What's the evidence?

BEA: Police received... a pair of anonymous tips. That's odd.

BRENDA: Did they find Julie's body?

BEA: No. But they found the clothes - buried in the woods outside Brookings, Oregon.

BRENDA: But no body. OK. That lines up with Natalie's story.

BEA: Thanks to this tip, they also discovered that Kail checked into a cabin in Oregon that very night - not far from Brookings. Apparently, he spent the next month holed up there writing Detective Chimp. And those wigs in the back of Julie's car? They're from the set of Guinevera!

PAMELA: But that timing doesn't work. Did he race Julie up to Brookings?

BRENDA: If he flew up there, he would've had plenty of time to get there first - but if Bea's right, he didn't kill Julie. Why do they think he killed Ralph?

BEA: The second tip. They subpoenaed all the studio archive copies of communications on Guinevera, and discovered that Kail *personally* ordered that "Student #39" - Ralph - be barred from set, citing "violent insubordination". Security daily reports mentioned several incidents where Ralph showed up after the barring, and "heated threats" were exchanged.

BRENDA: But do they have anything specific beyond that?

BEA: No... fibers or anything like that. There's always fibers.

BRENDA: There were fibers we could never identify on the torso at the time - have they compared them to ones from Kail?

BEA: Not that I've seen. They took him into custody in New York just a half-hour ago. We were already in the air.

PAMELA: It's fine. We can still roll with this. In The Dark pulled it off --

BEA: But that was, like, one episode in.

PAMELA: Bea, I need you to stay calm right now.

BEA: I am calm. I'm perfectly calm. Just because we had this yanked out from under us with two episodes to go --

PAMELA: We didn't have this yanked out from under us. We still have questions. Was Natalie lying to us? Was Robert Capsom? Could Kail have done this alone? I don't think so, do you?

BRENDA: Who burned my -- [vomit sounds]

BEA: You're right. This is not a catastrophe. It's just a disaster.

PAMELA: Bea --

BEA: Just... just give me a minute. And a [beep]load more Merlot.

[walking sounds]

BRENDA (shouting after her): Kinda hard to walk off in a huff on a plane!She's gone, right?

PAMELA: Yeah. You good?

BRENDA: Been worse. This one time at Burning Man, I found this booth selling lightly-expired LSD --

PAMELA: I don't need to hear this.

BRENDA: I mean imagine... Pam?

[sound cut]

BEA: They moved too soon.

MOLLY: What?

BEA: They don't have ironclad evidence - yet. He's gonna walk, isn't he?

MOLLY: I don't know, dearie. You're the investigator.

BEA: Sorry. I, uh... who are you?

MOLLY: Molly! Hi! You know, my sewing circle listens to your show? They find it so relaxing.

BEA: That's nice. Thank you.You're another contest winner.

MOLLY: Every time you just start snappin' at each other like a couple of snappin' turtles, Mavis turns to me and she says, "Molly, they're just like your kids!"

BEA: ...I should hope not.

MOLLY: Aw, did you get down because the police figured it out before you did?

BEA: No, no, I am not down because a criminal was arrested.

MOLLY: 'Sides, I bet he had some accomplices. Like that Tyrell fella! Say, you said you were gonna look into his alibi at some point.

BEA: We probably did say that. We made a lot of promises.

MOLLY: So, what was it?

BEA: His alibi?

MOLLY: Well, gosh, yes. He attacked Ralph in class, didn't he?

BEA: Tyrell was at the Capsom family compound that weekend.

MOLLY: That's not an alibi! And I bet he faked his death, anyway.

BEA: How do you fake a stomach being removed?

MOLLY: The pictures do it all the time!

BEA: Molly, I'm sure you're a perfectly nice woman, and thank you for listening to the show, but... this isn't a good time.

MOLLY: Oh, I'm sure you'll figure somethin' out. You're the investigator!

BEA: Yeah, thanks.

[walking sound]

[knocking sound]

BEA: You still in there?

BRENDA: Not much of a place to go.

BEA: New plan. We find Julie. We get her to go - on the record - that Kail killed Ralph --

BRENDA: The police probably have evidence they're not releasing to the press yet.

BEA: Are you kidding? This is all vague - circumstantial --

BRENDA: But it's more of a lead than they've had since the beginning.

BEA: But if they screw it up - he doesn't just walk on this case, he probably walks on everything. The LA Times story about those women -- but we know Julie's alive. We can close the deal and put him away!

BRENDA: What if Julie doesn't want to talk?

BEA: There's nothing to be afraid of now!

BRENDA: Casely... Bea... there's going to be a point where we're gonna have to let this go.

BEA: It's only Episode 10. We've got two more to go.

BRENDA: ...Sure.

BEA: God. Y'know - it's stupid. You're behind that door and you feel a million miles away.

BRENDA: You doing OK?

BEA: I, uh... Yeah. Yeah.... I'm fine.

[sound cut]

[Airplane ding!]

ROSALIND (over the PA): This is Captain Rosalind Ursula, we're cruising now at an altitude of 10,000 feet over the Atlantic Ocean, and if you look out your left window you'll see the Grand Canyon! Just kidding, you'll see a [beep]-ton of water. You'll also see that if you look out your right window. That's all!

[door opens]

BEA: You wanted to see me?

ROSALIND: Well, Copilot Andy did, but you really shouldn't be able to get into the cockpit. Safety regulations.

ANDY: It's fine. How're you holding up?

BEA: What? I'm fine.

ANDY: Disappointment is a fact of life, young Bea. I remember the time I invested \$1 million into developing HD-DVDs. It was right when HD was becoming a thing, so I made an enormous fortune and got out of the business! I was later disappointed when blu-ray won. How did it win with a name like blu-ray? They're not even blue!

BEA: Thank you, Andy.

ANDY: Besides, the race isn't done yet. I've had a brainwave - there's another suspect we've never even discussed on the show!

BEA: Really?

ANDY: Think about it! Julie disappears on Christmas night in the middle of a blizzard. It would have to take some pretty fancy helicopter flying to do that. But there's someone else in the air on Christmas night - an experienced pilot, one with a craft that can handle all sorts of weather, one whose dark and mysterious business practices deserve greater scrutiny, one who knows who's been naughty and who's been nice --

BEA:Andy, are you suggesting that Santa Claus kidnapped Julie Capsom?

ANDY: I'm saying we ought to seriously investigate this possibility! Who else could snatch a young woman right into thin air and leave no trace behind? My God - we could do a Christmas special episode! Think of the ancillaries! The tie-ins!

BEA: It's April.

ANDY: Christmas was originally in April!

ROSALIND: He is right about that, actually. December was taken as --

BEA: Yes, yes, we all know about how Saturnalia was stolen from the pagans, we don't need to relitigate that.

Well. I'm gonna... go get back to my Mer-lot. Thank you, Andy. This has been... illuminating.

[door shuts]

ROSALIND: We really should lock that door.

ANDY: Sorry. Just thinking about Christmas in April.

[sound cut]

CONTEST WINNER #3: ...But are you sure you're not Sean Stone?

BEA: ...Yes. I am sure I'm not Sean Stone.

CONTEST WINNER #3: But I was told he's here.

BEA: Oh, he's here. He's just very sad about Julie.

[pulls back curtain]

BEA: How you doin', Sean?

SEAN: [British crying]

BEA: Yeah.

[sound cut]

PAMELA: There's no mention of Natalie.

BEA: Hm?

PAMELA: In the stories of Kail's arrest. No mention of her as an accomplice or a witness or anything.

BEA: Do you think she called it in? Try to throw the police - and us - off the scent?

PAMELA: Maybe.

BEA: Now you're doubting me?

PAMELA: You gotta admit, you've been acting a lot like Bentley lately.

BEA: Yeah, I guess I deserve that.

PAMELA: This was... not what we pictured when we signed up for this, was it?

BEA: Hey, it was your idea to interview Bentley in the first place.

PAMELA: I just wanted you to do your due diligence! Not like I expected an eccentric billionaire to waltz in.

BEA: That is a very improbable event, to be sure.

PAMELA: But that's all I want to be sure of - you're doing your due diligence.

BEA: Maybe this is some wild goose chase. Maybe Julie really was hunted down and murdered by a psychotic Hollywood director, and her body was taken away by some wolf or bear or the goddamn skunk ape after all, and Natalie fed us a tissue of lies - or maybe Kail was waiting for her at the airport. But I have to know.

PAMELA: But are you sure?

BEA: I think it's worth the risk.

PAMELA: Ah, hell. Not like we can turn the plane around at this point anyway.

ANDY (on the PA system): We totally could!

PAMELA: Besides. Even if you're wrong, we get a weekend in Italy, right?

BEA: Yeah. But I don't think I'm wrong. I hope I'm not wrong.

[sound cut]

ANDY (on the PA system): Good evening, passengers! Since this is a long flight, you're probably tired now and want some rest. Well, why not relax with the smooth, smooth sounds of Wheyface Imitation Whalesong?

Rather than exploit those poor, innocent whales who were quite stubborn about not signing the very generous contracts we offered them, we've developed the ability for humans to imitate the soothing whale sounds - and I can promise you, those humans are generously compensated, unlike other actual whalesong CDs that just steal their music, those monsters! And Wheyface scientists have assured me that the noise is far more relaxing than actual whalesong! Take a listen:

[the sound of humans trying to imitate whalesong. Horribly. It goes on way too long.]

ANDY: Why, isn't that wonderful! And so....[yawning] Relaxing...

ROSALIND: Hop to it, copilot Andy! No eyes closed in the cockpit!

ANDY: Roger roger, Captain! Wheyface Imitation Whalesong: Now playing on every channel of our in-flight radio for the next eight hours.

[sound cut]

BRENDA: What a time to be caught in an airplane bathroom, right?

BEA: Are you sure you don't have the flu? You've been in there an awful long time.

BRENDA: I'm good enough that I can follow even one of your stories.

BEA: Glad you haven't lost your sense of humor.

BRENDA: Laughter is the best medicine.

BEA: You should meet the contest winners, then.

BRENDA: Ahhhh, right. How's that going?

BEA: It's a very bizarre experience to be on the other side of "Never meet your heroes".

BRENDA: Yikes.

BEA: This is why I need you. You could just read a koan to them and send them back to their seats with a new lease on life.

BRENDA: You want one?

BEA: ...How did you become interested in this, anyway?

BRENDA: I began to study the practices of Rinzai Zen after I was fired. Something about the central principle intrigued me.

BEA: And that is?

BRENDA: The idea of "*kenshō*" - to see one's true nature. At least, that's the standard English translation. Scholars dispute - well, they always dispute. But koans are a large part of how we see our true natures. They're not riddles or puzzles. And they're not unanswerable or meaningless.

BEA: Like this case isn't unanswerable.

BRENDA: ...No. No, it isn't.

REGINALD (in bathroom): I say, this has been quite educational!

BEA: What the fu - Brenda, is someone in there with you!

BRENDA: Oh, yeah, all the contest winners are all in here.

(chorus of "hellos")

BEA:*How*.

BRENDA: Well, it's a bit tricky.

MOLLY: I'm holding back her hair!

REGINALD: I'm on sink duty. Oh and I believe it's pronounced co-han.

BEA: Oh, teach you that at Bowdoin, didn't they?

CONTEST WINNER #3: I'm entertaining everyone! (starts to sing) *Cleeeeearing* --

[sound cut]

BEA: Hey, Lorena. I guess you're sleeping now - must be pretty late back in LA. Sorry. It's been, uh - it's been a more chaotic flight than I thought. Even though I should have expected that considering how most things go. But seriously, even with that it's been pretty crazy. So I...I'll talk to you soon! Can't wait to go to Santa Fe with you, it'll be great. No case, no ads, no dehydrated drinks for adults, no - well. See you soon.

Uh, send AuralEmoji: "Miss you!"

[whooshing sound; sheep baa-ing]

Huh, I guess that does make sense.

[walking sound]

ANDY: Mind if I have a seat?

BEA: Oh, of course, Mr. Wheyface. ...Shouldn't you be up front helping to fly the plane?

ANDY: Perk of being an eccentric billionaire: I hired a back-up copilot so I could get my beauty sleep!

BEA: Yes. That is... pretty smart, actually.

ANDY: Besides, Rosalind and I had to fight off one of those malfunctioning stewardess bots from taking over the plane and - well, you don't need to hear about that. So much for the relaxing breather episode, right?

BEA: Uh, yeah. Yeah, I guess so.

ANDY: Might I give you a word of advice?

BEA: Hit me.

ANDY: Don't let the personal overwhelm the professional. No, wait. I had that backwards. Ugh, I'd been practicing that too!

BEA: "Don't let the professional overwhelm the personal"?

ANDY: Yes, exactly. Still one sharp cookie. But that's what I did, Bea. Well, that and the sect I was raised in had some very specific rules about romance. Not until you're 35, and only then with two chaperones, a licensed physician, and a costermonger.

BEA: Sir, is that why you started the Costermongers of Tomorrow apprenticeship program?

ANDY: Rosalind told me what you skipped out on, this weekend.

BEA: I didn't skip out on anything. We just.... Delayed it.

ANDY: And now to have the whole case yanked from under you! I was pretty impressed with you, both, mind you - timing these dramatic developments for the end of the season! But now --

BEA: Well, I'm sure your editors helped with that.

ANDY: Oh, yes, I'll have to stop back there and thank them.

BEA: Wait, what? Are the editors here?

ANDY: ...Oh, dear.

BEA: You've kept them sequestered from us since the beginning of the show.

ANDY: They needed to do their job, just like you need to do yours - with detachment!

BEA: Where are they?! I have a thing or two to say to them!

ANDY: Bea, please, they're locked in the security cabin --

[walking sound]

ANDY: Working...Oh, you've done it again, Andy Wheyface. Hmmm. Imitation whalesong, take me away!

[door knocking sound]

BEA: Editors! Editors! I know you're in there! I have a bone or two to pick with you! I will camp here for the rest of the flight! I don't know if you have a bathroom in there, but if you don't...I will block you!

[door swinging open]

EDITOR 1: [horrible, Lovecraftian sound similar to the Hypnotoad in Futurama]

BEA: Yes, hello to you too.

EDITOR 2: [equally horrible Lovecraftian-Hypnotoad sound]

BEA: I can see you're working and buddy, I have something to say about that!

EDITOR 3: [horrible sound, you get the point]

BEA: You have made us sound unprofessional, ill-prepared, rude - I did months of research on this case! Scholarly! Detailed! I had a whole run-down on Julie's Law! Its Constitutional applications!

EDITOR 1: [yet another horrible sound]

BEA: Oh, it's a very complex issue - no! You will not distract me by appealing to my outstanding background work! You've turned us into - into comedy! How dare you!

EDITOR 2: [pause] [you guessed it, horrible sound --]

BEA: And I bet you're probably going to mask your voices with some ridiculous sound effect, aren't you! Well, let me tell you, that's.... Hacky!

EDITOR 3: [horrible sound effect] -- yeah, you've probably got us there.

EDITOR 1: We could do the bit where she tells us off for it and then go back to regular voices.

EDITOR 2: Yeah, we could give it a shot in post, see how it plays.

BEA: You people are --

EDITOR 3: Are what? Doing our jobs?

EDITOR 1: We're telling a story, just like you.

BEA: But it's not the full story.

EDITOR 2: Well, of course not. The full story's always too much. That's why you need us.

EDITOR 3: But put the right pieces together and you've got magic, baby. You'll get 'em eating out of the palm of your hand.

BEA: That's disgusting.

EDITOR 1: People accept big lies if they're covered in what they want most. What do you want, Bea?

BEA: The truth. Always and forever, the truth.

EDITOR 2: I like that. We can work with that.

EDITOR 3: Unlike Bentley, who's been giving us nothing in this episode.

EDITOR 1: Just coverin' in a bathroom the whole time, who does that?

BEA: Leave her alone! She's been through some tough... huh. "People accept big lies if they're covered in what they want most."

[door slamming shut]

EDITOR 2: That wasn't much of an ending.

EDITOR 3: We'll fix it in post.

[sound cut]

[Airplane ding]

ROSALIND (over the PA): This is your captain speaking, thank you for flying Wheyface Air! May I say, that was the smoothest landing of my career, welcome to Verona! Yeah!

[bathroom door opening]

BEA: You were in there awhile.

BRENDA: Yeah. For good reason.

BEA: It doesn't smell, though.

BRENDA: I should hope not!

BEA: Bentley - Brenda - please be honest with me.

BRENDA: I am. I haven't been feeling well, so I've been in here the whole time.

BEA: I mean... if you want to talk about it... I'd hope we could talk about ... well, anything by now.

BRENDA: Talk about what?

BEA: Why you've been - well, you've been avoiding me.

BRENDA: Hard to do that on a plane.

BEA: You did a pretty good job of it. Leaving me to deal with all the contest winners. To handle the breaking story. Deal with Pamela and Andy and Rosalind.

BRENDA: So what?

BEA: You gave me a solo episode of the show, Bentley. People accept big lies if they're covered in what they want most.

BRENDA: And that's what you want?

BEA: It's what I think you think I want. And yeah, it's what I thought I wanted. Brenda, I can't --

BRENDA: I called the cops.

BEA: ...What?

BRENDA: That's why I didn't show up for the recording last night. I was meeting with a contact of mine. I didn't think they'd move to take him into custody this quickly --

BEA: How could you?

BRENDA: Uh, did you forget about the fact that at least one murder was committed?

BEA: How could you?

BRENDA: There comes a point when we need to step back and let the law handle this! This is why they're here--

BEA: No.

BRENDA: Are you serious?

BEA: We started this journey together. And you decide - on your own - you're going to --

BRENDA: You're acting like this is a game!

BEA: Ten years! We were so close, Bentley. And you - do you have any idea what you've done?

BRENDA: The right thing. I think.

BEA: You think?

BRENDA: You need to stop thinking like a journalist for a second. This isn't just a story. We can't keep pretending it's just for entertainment --

BEA: Stop going back to that! You know that's not it.

BRENDA: Even if they arrested him earlier than I thought, Kail is being brought to justice. That's a good enough ending for me.

BEA: This is about more than justice. This is about the truth.

BRENDA: Right. The truth. Y'know, I never got Superman's motto.

BEA: What?

BRENDA: Superman. Y'know - "truth. Justice. The American way." Those are three very, very different things.

BEA: Yeah. I suppose they are. I'll see ya later, Bentley. Enjoy Verona.

BRENDA: If you find her - if you find her, call me?

BEA: ...I think I have to. I feel like I should say something cheesy - "And now, I'm going to go find out the truth!" Is that good enough?

BRENDA: Yeah. I think that's good enough.

ANDY: On the next Arden - will Bea find Julie Capsom? What happened all those years ago? And did Brenda make the right call - oh, I just got that! Very clever pun.

And be sure to watch the season finale of America's #1 show, The Grunty McMurtry Show, on the newly rebranded AWC! It's not ABC, it's AWC! Tonight, America's favorite hillbillies go Shakespearean, in "Much Ado About Grunting!"

HILLBILLY: [surprisingly eloquent and heartfelt grunting]

[credits]

[credits stop]

JULIE (16 years old): Hi kids, it's me, Julie Capsom, star of Jane Austen Fight Club! And I'm here to talk to you about Wheyface Kids!

But what is Wheyface Kids? It's a brand-new satellite channel, founded on a very simple idea: Good Kids grow up to be Good People! And here at Wheyface Industries, we like Good People, isn't that right, Mr. Wheyface?

ANDY: Fo shizzle, Julie! We are the Good People!

JULIE: Fo shizzle, Mr. Wheyface. Fo shizzle.

You can start getting Wheyface Kids on Christmas Day 2006, where we'll be doing an all-day marathon of my film Jane Austen Fight Club --

ANDY: It's a holiday classic!

JULIE: But for an early preview, sign up for our brand new website WheySpace, where you can share all kinds of cool things with your friends, like videos, music, and recipes!

Wheyface Kids: Good Kids grow up to be Good People. Part of Wheyface Industries.