

ARDEN, Episode 6:

“Nobody Did Anything”

By Christopher Dole, Sara Ghaleb, and Emily VanDerWerff

Created by Christopher Dole, Emily VanDerWerff, and Sara Ghaleb

ANDY: Arden is sponsored by Wheyface Industries. Don't face away from a challenge, Whey-face it head on. Wheyface Industries. The good people.

BEA: Welcome to the new and more informative Arden. This episode we will dig into all the nitty gritty real journalism that maybe other hosts would call boring. But you, listeners, you're smart. You want the facts. You tune in to my show for The Facts and I've got 'em! I'm the best host for this topic because what Julie's disappearance is REALLY about it-

[Pamela buzzes in to cut her off]

PAMELA: Bea, can we get another take where you sound less— mad with power is the nicest way I can put it.

BEA: Of course. I'm just bursting with journalistic integrity. I mean, I finally have my own show and I'm on a panel at Aud-Con on Friday. That's Audio Media Convention.

PAMELA: You've mentioned several times.

BEA: Oh.

PAMELA: But you should be proud! You're a star.

BEA: I'm better than a star, I'm a "Fresh Voice In Broadcast Podcasting!" colon "Entertainment Reporting" Finally a fresh voice, after ten years of broadcasting! And I'm nominated for my segments on Post Recession Blockbusters, which I did without any help. Except for you, Pamela. But I mean, I'm the one nominated so...

PAMELA: Just don't let it hurt your ego if Lorena Christopher gets all the good questions.

BEA: I hope she does! Historical docudrama fans always have such thoughtful questions! I'll have my moment next year, once people have gotten to hear the real vision of Arden. Not... whatever we've been doing.

PAMELA: I think our episodes have been pretty good.

BEA: True, I have been crushing it.

[composing herself] Anyway, welcome to Arden, I'm your one and only host, Bea Casely, and although I am alone right now I will soon be joined by a very special mystery guest to discuss-

[Pamela buzzes in to cut her off]

PAMELA: Sorry, Bea, I thought you knew Cliff Upjohn can't make it!

BEA: What?

PAMELA: His assistant called, he had to push it to Wednesday.

BEA: Oh god, the show's ruined. I have nothing!

PAMELA: Come on now. Who's crushing it?

BEA: (half hearted): I am.

PAMELA: Can I get a "Woo"?

BEA: (half hearted): Woo!

PAMELA: Thata girl.

BEA: Okay, we'll record the interview Wednesday. In the meantime we can talk about- [Bea rustles with papers] What's new with the case?

PAMELA: No new developments. You can do a brief explanation of Julie's Law.

BEA: Yes! I'd love that. Though I don't have all my notes with me. Can we record that later?

PAMELA: Sure thing. So what are we recording now?

BEA: I.... don't know. Huh. I wonder what Brenda's recording?

[cut]

BRENDA (singing): do-do-do do! Welcome to Bentley's show! The Bentley show! Solving mysteries/ fighting crime/ it's really gonna hidley hidley blow your mind! Starring Brenda Bentley, P. I.! ba-dum-dum! Woooo!

(not singing) And that's the theme song I'm working on!

ANDY: Ah. I love the energy!

BRENDA: So, uh, Andy? What IS my new show about?

ANDY: I do not know! We're looking a completely blank canvas here! Diving into the complete unknown! No focus at all! You've been tossed into the ocean and you don't have a map! Isn't that exciting!

BRENDA (nervous): Uhhhh....

[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.

[end theme]

ANDY: Imagine, if you will, the perfect entertainment program. Don't simply picture the trappings of it: comedy, glamor, pies thrown at a face with tremendous pathos. No, I want you to imagine the feeling it would give you. The feeling you always wanted entertainment to give you but it's always so tantalizingly out of reach. Do you feel it? Right here, in your gut? Like where your appendix bursts, but instead of it bursting and leaking pus into your abdominal, poisoning your organs until you pass out in a parking lot four weeks later- No, it burst with joy.

BRENDA: Wow. That is a tall order.

ANDY: And yet once again Andy Wheyface is turning an impossible dream into wholesome family entertainment.

BRENDA: You sure about "wholesome?"

ANDY: What could be more wholesome than the story of a family of hillbillies whose love transcends elitist formal language and can only be communicated by grunting?

BRENDA: My new show is about hillbillies grunting?

ANDY: Heavens no! Get your own idea! You're not the only podcaster here, Brenda. My bouncing baby brain child, The Grunty McMurtry Show, has been such a phenomenal radio hit in the two weeks it's been on the air that I'm adapting it for the plasma screen! That's television.

BRENDA: I've heard of it.

ANDY: That's good because I am looking for investors. Say, Brenda, do you own a television studio?

BRENDA: I don't even own a television remote anymore. It's been stuck on The CW for three years. Tell me, Andy, does anyone on your show shoot CGI lightning or have a sexy secret?

ANDY: Of course they do, I understand the basic fundamentals of drama.

BRENDA: Then it sounds like a hit to me.

ANDY: I knew you'd understand! Not like Casely, who lacks any sense of real showmanship.

BRENDA: Oh man, I would have loved to see her reaction.

ANDY: I have the tape if you want.

BRENDA: How did you get a-

ANDY: There are cameras everywhere on Wheyface property. For security.

BRENDA: Right...

ANDY: Here it is.

[He plays a tape]

ANDY: The Grunty McMurtry show is an all ages variety show slash grounded family drama about the Gruntiest McMurtry of them all!

[BEA Bursts out laughing]

ANDY: I knew you'd like it! You have a keen understanding of narrative.

BEA: (still laughing) Thanks- Oh, (stops laughing) OH! You're serious. Andy that show sounds- Well, I love that you're exploring your creative side. But I don't think I'm the target audience.

ANDY: Everyone with a dream is the target audience. Oh poor Bea, when did you stop dreaming?

[end tape]

ANDY: See, she has no imagination.

BRENDA: Andy?

ANDY: Yes?

BRENDA: How did you get that tape from the coffee shop across the street if you only have cameras in this building?

ANDY: Oh, the whole block is Wheyface property.

BRENDA: Huh.

[New scene]

ROSALIND: Hey there Eggs and Gams! How's tricks? I don't actually know what any of that means, but I am in a speakeasy right now. Brenda hasn't given me anything to do today so screw it, let's go get zozzled. I also ordered fries. Why am I recording in a speakeasy? Am I perhaps waiting for Brenda's show to crash and burn so I can swoop in at the last moment with my fully formed backdoor pilot for a travel show where I go to different cool bars and review the alcohol and the french fries? No, that would absurd! Unless there's a huge audience

demand for it, in which case please write in to Wheyface Radi- Is that Bea? It is! What's she doing out here?

BEA: Hi! So random meeting you here. Mind if I sit down-

[We hear Bea move the chair and sit before Rosalind has a chance to agree]

ROSALIND: Of course. I'm impressed you knew the password.

BEA: Oh, that, I uh, followed you here and heard you say it.

ROSALIND: Wow! You should be the private detective's assistant.

BEA: It was weird, I'm sorry. I know Brenda got you in the-

ROSALIND: Divorce?

BEA: No! More like a radio program talent redistribution agreement. Nothing as dramatic as a divorce. It happens every day.

ROSALIND: Sure.

BEA: But I was wondering if I could get your help with a teensy-weensy little favor?

ROSALIND: What kind of favor?

BEA: I was supposed to have an interview yesterday with Senator Cliff Upjohn,

ROSALIND: What's up, John?

BEA: He's a Senator that opposes Julie's Law. Anyway, he's a busy man and pushed the meeting to Wednesday, which would be fine but I saw that he might be traveling Wednesday, so I called to confirm and his assistant gave me the run around. I need to lock him down for an interview this week or else my show will be a disaster. You're the best assistant in town, could you help me?

ROSALIND: You want me to call an office and confirm an appointment?

BEA: Yes.

ROSALIND: I can do that.

BEA: You're a wonderful magical genius!

ROSALIND: And since this is now a work meeting you're buying this round.

BEA: Oh, okay.

ROSALIND: Barkeep, two scotch and soda's for me and my friend.

BEA: You meant a brand new round.

ROSALIND: Listeners-

BEA: Wh- are you recording this? Is everything I do recorded?

ROSALIND: I'm recording an episode of my show, Rosalind's Film Club. I review Julie's movies. I also do behind the curtain type segments around the studio. No? Well, maybe you'll have a listen to them after Arden's wrapped.

BEA: Sorry?

ROSALIND: As I was saying, I'm ordering scotch and sodas because today we are discussing Julie's 2004 jukebox musical *Scotch & Soda*.

[drinks are put down for them]

BEA: Well, if it's for Julie-

ROSALIND: Cheers!

[They clink their glasses]

BEA (after taking a sip): Why are you still doing this? You don't work for Arden anymore.

ROSALIND: I never did. I work for Brenda. Rosalind Film Club is an unaffiliated LLC, under Wheyface Radio.

BEA: You have an LLC?

ROSALIND: A few, but let's not get into that. Do you want to be a guest? You've seen *Scotch & Soda*, right?

BEA: Like a hundred times! I love how they used prohibition to capture the repressive longing of teenage rebellion. And those costumes! And the music!

ROSALIND: We've got a fan! I got the rights to play Julie's song from the film, want to set it up for the listeners?

BEA: Okay, Julie's character, Dorothy, is a spitfire of a girl who falls in love with this fast talking rum-runner played by a very confusingly cast Elijah Wood. She runs away from home to be with him. She thinks they're going to get married! But then the cops are after him so he leaves without her and-

ROSALIND: Great! Play the clip!

BEA: Who are you talking-?

[click]

[song]

JULIE/DOROTHY (singing):

Now won't you listen honey while I say
 How could you tell me that you're going away
 Don't say that we must part
 Don't break your baby's heart
 You know I loved you for these many years
 Loved you night and day
 Oh honey baby can't you see my tears
 Listen while I say
 [Chorus]

After you've gone and left me crying
 After you've gone there's no denying,
 You'll feel blue, you'll feel sad,
 You'll miss the only pal you've ever had
 There'll come a time, now don't forget it,
 There'll come a time, when you'll regret it
 Oh! Babe, think what you're doing
 You know my love for you will drive me to ruin,
 After you've gone
 After you've gone away, away.

[New scene]

BRENDA: I've got a new song!

BRENDA (singing): Wha-wha-what's Bentley doing this Wednesday?
 She might solve a mystery /
 or learn some facts!
 She might cause some trouble /
 or just relax!
 It's Brenda's day!
 Every Wednesday on your favorite podcast!

ANDY: I like it. I can tell you're very nearly at an idea.

BRENDA: I feel like it's close!

ANDY: You'll hit that Saturday deadline no problem.

BRENDA: Wasn't it Sunday?

ANDY: Sunday you edit.

[Brenda makes a worried noise]

ANDY: Now I have an important idea to run past you. What if for the tv adaptation Grunty McMurtry had a former best friend turned rival?

[Brenda gasps!]

BRENDA: I love it.

ANDY: And his name is Jack Billions. He's a billionaire who solves crime with his wife and dog, Champ.

BRENDA: Champ is the dog or the wife?

ANDY: Dog.

BRENDA: Disappointing. Okay, while I would obviously watch the TV show Billions-

ANDY: Legally we can't call it that, there's already a show called *Billions* and even I can't afford to make an enemy of Paul Giamatti.

BRENDA: I do think you should take a step back and realize you're writing something shamefully self indulgent. Which I'm for! I'm very self indulgent, but only with self awareness.

ANDY: What do you mean?

BRENDA: You are already a billionaire who solves crimes, or at least smart enough to hire this gorgeous genius in front of you to solve crimes. All you're missing is a wife and a dog!

[Andy mumbles, defeated]

BRENDA: Hey, buddy, I'm just a simple radio detective. I say what I see, I don't do the creative inventing. Go where the muse takes you.

ANDY: Maybe you're right... because if I had a wife and a dog... Hmmm....

[Bea's show, in medias res]

CLIFF UPJOHN: And that's why it's so important to know where every member of your city's council stands on sidewalk zoning.

BEA: Wow Senator Upjohn, I never thought of it that way.

CLIFF UPJOHN: Well it's important to stay abreast of changes in your community.

BEA: There's so much more we could discuss when it comes to local government proposals -

CLIFF UPJOHN: We haven't even touched on privacy law!

BEA: Somehow we have still not done that, even though I kept bringing up Julie's Law, but sadly we are out of time.

CLIFF UPJOHN: Oh no! Well it was a pleasure speaking with you, Ms. Casely.

BEA: You too, Senator.

[beat]

BEA (relieved): And that's a wrap. We're off the air.

CLIFF UPJOHN: I hope I didn't make you uncomfortable, Ms. Casely.

BEA: Of course not.

CLIFF UPJOHN: I regretted saying "abreast" as soon as it left my mouth. That's not the way to talk in the workplace anymore, what with everything happening politically. It's 2017 and I should know better.

BEA: Yeah, no, abreast is a completely normal word adults can say. It's 2017, you can talk to women like they're normal people who know what words mean.

CLIFF UPJOHN: Oh good, you can never be too careful.

[CLIFF UPJOHN laughs and Bea awkwardly joins in]

BEA: I'm starting to miss you talking about crosswalks. Well, thank you for coming in -

[the door opens]

BRENDA: A-HA!

BEA: Brenda! What are- I thought we agreed the days of you barging into my recording booth during MY show were over.

BRENDA: First off, I waited until the recording light was off because we're colleagues now and I'm professional like that-

BEA: You should have been treating me like a colleague this whole time-

BRENDA: Unlike you! You sneaky, unprofessional, discourteous - that's right! I know words like discourteous!

CLIFF UPJOHN: Ladies! What is all this hostility about?

BRENDA: Don't call us ladies in that tone of voice.

CLIFF UPJOHN: Can't seem to say anything-

BEA: You're not the problem, Senator.

BRENDA: Um, he is the problem because you got my assistant to get you an interview with him. This interview is mine by right!

BEA: What? That's not- we don't have a "by right" system here. We're not Targaryens! People have interviews with whoever they agreed to have the interview with. And I already had it! All Rosalind did was confirm times!

BRENDA: Cliff, buddy, pal. Were you going to blow this off before my gir Friday called you?

CLIFF UPJOHN: I'm lost.

BRENDA: Rosalind Ursula.

CLIFF UPJOHN: Ms Ursula! Indeed! She was very charming, she would do wonderfully in politics. I actually planned to be in Sonoma today and she persuaded me to come here instead.

BEA: But you said-

CLIFF UPJOHN: I can't keep track of everything my assistant agrees to.

BRENDA: Rosalind got the interview, Rosalind works for me, ergo-

BEA: Works for you on what! You don't have a show yet!

BRENDA: I am very close to cracking the theme song, which is the hardest part!

BEA: Oh, you're working on a theme song? They might as well give you a Pulitzer now!

CLIFF UPJOHN: Ladies, I haven't been able to follow any of this. I don't even know who you are.

BRENDA: I'm detective Brenda Bentley.

CLIFF UPJOHN (nervous): A detective?

BEA: She's not with the police force. Not since she got kicked off.

BRENDA: WOW. You're really looking to throw down today.

CLIFF UPJOHN: Please don't. I can't be associated with any talk of violence.

BRENDA: Oh, I'm above all that. You see, Cliff. I'm a rational radio professional and I believe you should do an interview with me as well. In the interest of hearing both sides.

CLIFF UPJOHN: It is important to hear both sides.

BEA: What could you possibly have to talk about with Senator Upjohn?

BRENDA: I don't know, what were you talking about?

BEA: Privacy laws in California, but since you're not doing a show about Julie Capsom anymore-

BRENDA (challenge): Who says I'm not?

BEA (fuming): Oh, you have some nerve... Fine. Of course. I won't have anyone say I had an unfair advantage. Senator Upjohn, I really must insist you stay and give Brenda an interview. A long one. Longer than ours. Four hours at least.

BRENDA (suspicious): Thank you.

CLIFF UPJOHN: I really must be getting to Sonoma.

BRENDA: Don't worry, Rosalind's already there filling in for you.

CLIFF UPJOHN: My, she really is something. Do tell her I'm a big fan of her film podcast.

[Door closes, Cliff and Brenda are gone.]

BEA: Pamela, can you believe her?... Pamela?

PAMELA: Hm? Oh, I was looking for a commercial to cut to. Turns out we don't have any left.

BEA: Okay, but can you believe the nerve of her bursting in here like that!

PAMELA: We agreed you wouldn't complain about Brenda now that she's off the show.

BEA: That was about stuff she did before, she's doing new annoying stuff now! Back me up here!

PAMELA: I have to go produce another Cliff Upjohn interview today, so I'm not in a mood to back you up. Oh, and go tell Andy you need to record a commercial today.

BEA: Now? What else could he have to sell? Maybe he's made a pen that writes in maple syrup. Or an air freshener that predicts the future?

PAMELA: Can't hear you, I'm already out the door.

BEA: [Huffs]

PAMELA: Yeah

[commercial music plays]

BEA: It's tough being alone. Sure, you might think you're happy on your own. That you are self made and didn't need a partner before, why have one now after you already put in all the work? Wouldn't some new person just throw your carefully cultivated life into disarray? A needless distraction? A hanger-on? But that's how cowards think.

Hey, Andy. Sounds like there a specific person you're trying to reach with this ad.

ANDY: Uhh, yes and no I suppose.

BEA: Finding love isn't easy. Or it wasn't, until Wheydate! Wheyface's new dating app that will help you find your soulmate. Wheyface wants you to sign up and post a profile if you're between the ages of 35 and 65, looking to settle down, have a kind smile, and either know how to fly a helicopter or are willing to learn!

ANDY: Do you think I'm being too picky?

BEA: *You're* being too picky?

ANDY: Yes, instead of "Have a kind smile" just "teeth?"

BEA: Hold on, forgive me if I'm being wildly speculative and judgmental, but is this a dating app that only matches potential dates to *you*?

ANDY: Oh, I thought you were gearing up to say something a bit rude. Yes, you're right on the money. We have an algorithm that will look through billions of people and find my soulmate.

BEA: Wow. It must me nice to have your own gazillion dollar company.

ANDY: It is. But it's not enough. Brenda pointed out all my life is missing is a wife and a dog, so I'm finding a wife, and then later I'll build us a dog.

BEA: Ignoring the ominous use of the word "build" there, you still have to date around a bit! For starters everyone lies on their dating profile, so the algorithm is going to be useless. You need to get in there and go through the messy process of learning each other's quirks.

ANDY: So I have to deal with dishonestly and messiness and getting to know someone before we can solve mysteries together with our Wheyface brand Dog TM?

BEA: I'm afraid so.

ANDY: Huh. It is disappointing that I might have to go on multiple dates. Dating's never seemed time efficient.

BEA: Have you never been on a date?

ANDY: I was busy turning a small business, into an empire.

BEA: Do you even know what sorts of people you're attracted to?

ANDY: Oh Bea, the algorithm will sort it all out for me.

BEA: I think that's more of a go with your gut thing. Andy, what do you want?

ANDY: Hmm, I suppose, if I am completely honest with myself, I'm not sure I want a dog! They don't have enough legs in my opinion. Maybe that's why I'm so obsessed with Wheyface building a better, more aerodynamic canine.

BEA: I would love to do a deep dive into every single thing you've said this conversation, but I don't think we should be recording it.

ANDY: Quite right. Let's wrap up the commercial.

BEA: You still want to use this take for the commercial persuading people to date you?

ANDY: Bea. Algorithm. It's the algorithm that will persuade them to date me. Trust the algorithm.

BEA: Of course. You know, I am giving Wheydate my full personal endorsement because I'm very curious where this will go. The best of luck to all of you out there. Wheydate: Putting a face to Wheyface. Feels like you botched the pun on that one.

[end commercial]

ROSALIND: Faithful listeners, it is I, your queen, Rosalind Ursula. I am a little wine drunk right now, and I think I just signed a petition to run for senate? But I think it's not legally binding because I'm drunk. And because I'm pretty sure I signed my name as Jordan Baker, which is the name I give people when I'm drunk. Cuz' you have to be so sober to convince people your name really is Rosalind Ursula. Anyway, I'm having a great time. I should have a travel show where I get drunk and run for office in every state. No, that sounds horrible for my health and I want to live forever. I should ask Andy about becoming immortal, I'm sure Wheyface sells something for that. But AT WHAT COST? I'm going to go get some water, which, like Jesus, is what I call more wine. Goodbye listeners, I love you.

[click]

CLIFF UPJOHN (sounding like a recording): And that's how you can contact your representative about the species of trees grown on your street.

BEA (sounding like a recording): (Yawning) Fascinating, but back to Julie's Laws-

[click]

BEA (yawning): Awwwwww..... [bleep]. This is awful. Why didn't Pamela tell me this was awful? Not even our [extremely fake edited in Bea voice] "genius" "wonderful" [end fake editing] editors could sensationalize it. I'm so boring! Uuuugggghhh.

OK, OK, OK! Get ahold of yourself, Bea. Boring isn't bad. It's not great, but at least I have an episode. It is informative. That's valuable. I'm getting too in my head. This is actual journalism. It was never supposed to involve getting banned from morgues or searching for aliens! I'm way better off.

Actually, it's Brenda I feel bad for, Upjohn must literally be boring her to tears right now.

[cut]

CLIFF UPJOHN: Before we get into Julie's Law I think it's important to understand the foundation of the constitution-

BRENDA: Sure. So, Senator. Why do you care so much about protecting privacy laws?

CLIFF UPJOHN: Who wouldn't?

BRENDA: You. You don't care about any other issue. You like to informing people about every issue, but your voting record is very right down the middle, no waves, no big stands. Absolutely no reason for anyone to look into you except that your name kept coming up in a case I worked in 2015, Sausalito.

CLIFF UPJOHN: I'd prefer we talk about the democratic process-

BRENDA: You know, when I found out I was getting this interview I did some digging-

CLIFF UPJOHN: You found out fifteen minutes ago-

BRENDA: Did I? Or did I find out last week that Bea had you booked for Monday, made sure my assistant got you into the building, then made up an excuse to get you in a room, alone, with a recorder on the record?

CLIFF UPJOHN: How-

BRENDA: Let's just say I'm very productive when I'm procrastinating. So. Senator Cliff. Do you remember a former employee of yours named Helga Bouchard?

CLIFF UPJOHN: I don't have to speak to you-

[Sound of Cliff Upjohn pushing out of his chair.]

Sound of him and Brenda physically fighting FOR A WHILE]

[Cut]

BEA: He confessed to what??

BRENDA: Dog fighting rings. But not like you're picturing.

BEA: I'm picturing dogs wearing little boxing gloves.

BRENDA: That's adorable, but way off. You ever play that game where you ride on a friend's shoulders and try to push a different friend riding on a friend's shoulders down into a pool?

BEA: I am aware of it.

BRENDA: It was that but the dogs were fighting on the shoulders of miners.

BEA: CHILDREN?

BRENDA: No, coal miners that were put out of work by Upjohn's clean energy initiative.

BEA: I voted for that.

BRENDA: Hey, if it hadn't passed those dogs would be fighting on the backs of wind farm workers. That's just the way scumbags like Upjohn work.

BEA: I'm shocked he had this side to him.

BRENDA: Really?

BEA: Okay, when he said, "ladies," he sounded like an obvious sicko.

BRENDA: Right?

BEA: Why is that? I like when women say "ladies"

BRENDA: *Ladies...*

BEA: Yeah, why does that work?

BRENDA: My natural crime stopping charisma.

BEA: (scoffs)

BRENDA: Oh I'm sorry, which one of us talked to Upjohn for two hours and got nothing and which of us got a confession pretty much as soon as his ass hit the chair?

BEA: You only came here to gloat!

BRENDA: You bet your bottom dollar I did. And now that I've gloated I'm going to go talk to Andy, because I think the first episode of my show is going to be incredi-balls. See you around, *Lady*. That doesn't really work with the singular.

BEA: I still hated it.

BRENDA: Success!

[new scene]

[Sound of a crowd]

BEA: Hi! This is so exciting. I'm here at Aud-Con, the Audio Media Convention. Not to be confused with Odd Con, the convention for the strange and unusual, and also not to be confused for Aud Con, the auditorium convention. I am backstage with the remarkable Lorena Christopher before our panel together.

LORENA: You're too kind.

BEA: Seriously, Remembering Forgotten Memories of Hollywood is an institution in Los Angeles podcast broadcasting. I really love the show. The history, the meticulous research, your *voice*. You have the best voice. I could listen to you talk forever.

LORENA: Thank you. Now you truly are being much too kind. I have been enjoying your new show. It's not as educational as I would prefer-

BEA: Well, you see-

LORENA: But you and your co-host have a great back and forth, like one of those old Hollywood partnerships a studio could build itself around. It's... compelling.

BEA: Huh. I will pass that along to Brenda.

[click. The panel.]

LORENA: Hello, welcome to Fresh Voice In Broadcast Podcasting, colon, Entertainment Reporting. I am Lorena Christopher, host of Remembering Forgotten Memories of Hollywood, and I will be moderating today's panel. With me is the host of I Think You're Interesting, Libby Hill. Co-host of Where Did This Get Made, April Donatello, and finally from Wheyface Radio, Bea Casely.

[Cheers]

BEA: Wow, great to be here.

[later]

[some cheers]

LORENA: -Well said, Ms. Casely, I think you've changed my mind on Instant gram.

BEA: Thanks, I uh, talk for a living so...ha ha.

LORENA: Let's open the floor up for questions. As a reminder if you take up too much time your convention pass will electroshock you. This year Aud Con is sponsored by Q&A&AHHH! I've Been Zapped For Wasting Everyone's Time! A Wheyface Industries product.

QUESTION 1: This is for Bea.

BEA (deeply flattered): Go ahead.

QUESTION 1: No offense, but I think you have to listen to Brenda more. Really dig into the Capsoms. It's obvious Julie's parents did it. Best way to eliminate bad press due to a rebellious daughter? Get rid of the source.

BEA: You lost me at listen to Brenda.

[Audience laughs at this]

BEA: [flattered] You guys have heard the show?

FAN: WE LOVE YOU, BEA!

BEA: Oh wow. Next question.

QUESTION 2: This question is for Ms. Casely. Big fan, by the way. What do you think of the idea that Julie did it?

BEA: That the situation was staged? I mean, no question the scene was sort of unreal, but it doesn't explain where Julie went.

QUESTION 2: Well, I have this theory. JULIE. IS. BIGFOOT. Not /actually/ bigfoot, well, actually, maybe... , but she lives in the forest, causing chaos where needed. Burned evidence? Julie. Brenda's poor poor truck? Julie. Ralph?? Not Julie... But maybe something she was running away from? And that Jeff... Geof? Goldbry? Jeff Goldblum, the one who had the tire thrown at, helped julie! The inconsistencies in his stories are because he didn't want to betray her, and--AHHHHHH! I've been zapped!

LORENA: Next question.

QUESTION 3: Kid actors are usually twins, right? So what if there really were two Julies, and not just “oh that doesn’t seem like the Julie -I- knew”? What if Julie was two twins?

BEA: You’ve been reading too much Dietrich Barnes. Julie was one of a kind.

LORENA: While we all love Arden, we should stay focused on Ms. Casely’s previous work.

BEA: Oh, I don’t mind at all!

QUESTION 4: Hello. This is more of a comment than a question. If you ask me, it was the weasels. Those damn sneaky, dirty SEDITIOUS weasels!!! I don't mean some weaselly person, oh no, it was those little, four legged, too long, CRIMINAL and above all lactose-intolerant WEASELS!!! Look into that!

LORENA: Did you mean to address that to Ms. Casely?

QUESTION 4: No, I think weasels killed Marilyn Monroe.

LORENA: Ah, I cover that in episode 237, “Marilyn Monroe conspiracies, colon, animal attacks.”

QUESTION 4: Oh, and a quick comment to Bea! I love Arden! It’s so funny!

BEA: It’s actually a serious show! But thank you for listening!

QUESTION 5: Bea, I’m a big fan. I’ve been listening to you since your DGA award red carpet segments.

BEA: People listened to that?

QUESTION 5: So, as a real reporter I have a tip you might want to look into. A guy I know who was assistant to a key grip on a telemovie that had once worked for Anson Williams swore to me one night when he was drunk that he knew for a fact that the kidnapping was staged as part of an experimental film by Lars von Trier that Julie Capsom agreed to play the lead on that has been filming in the Sierras ever since and is due for release sometime around July 2023.

BEA: Lars von Trier would never work with Julie. Not after she called him Lars von Trite in Teen Vogue and egged the set of Dogville.

QUESTION 6: My theory: I think Julie and Ralph faked their own deaths together and are living under new identities on some remote farm in the middle of nowhere.

LORENA: That's always been my favorite theory. Young lovers running away to live happily ever after, it's very Old Hollywood.

BEA: You think Julie would give up everything for some guy? A creepy obsessive guy no less? I guess that IS very Old Hollywood.

LORENA: I take it you're not a romantic, Bea?

BEA: What? I'm not NOT a romantic? Why are you-? Next question.

QUESTION 7: Did you do it, Bea?

BEA: ...No.

QUESTION 7: You were there that night, you were tracking Julie's movements. You were obsessed with her.

BEA: I was live on air!

QUESTION 7: The perfect alibi...

QUESTION 8: Julie is Andy Wheyface.

BEA: That... makes as much sense as anything about Andy Wheyface honestly. I will consider it!

QUESTION 9: Have we ruled out necromancy? Like the torso in the trunk, Julie's blood back there but nowhere else? Sounds like some nasty blood-focused necromancy, you know? If you ask me, Julie was dead long before she disappeared, and her undead wizard powers are keeping her in stasis until she's ready to return with an army of the undead, probably spearheaded by Ralph and Gerald and all the other folks who have disappeared looking for her. That's the REAL Capsom curse: necromancy.

BEA: Please don't use my love of curses against me like this.

QUESTION 10:

1. There is no proof that cyborgs do not exist.
2. There is no proof* that Ralph is not alive.
3. There is no proof that points (1) and (2) are unrelated to one another.

BEA: How would-

QUESTION 11: Andy Wheyface has the money and eccentricity to make a cyborg, and then make a show where people do not realize that he has made the cyborg that brought the two of them together in the first place!

BEA: I.....

QUESTION 11: YOUR ZAPS DO NOT HURT ME, I AM HALF MACHINE!

QUESTION 12: I believe Julie faked her death, changed her name, and is now Brenda's assistant, Rosalind!

BEA: No, it's too sad to think about Julie suffering for years working for Brenda.

[Fan laughter]

BEA: I can't believe there's so much new invested in solving this mystery.

QUESTION 12: Well, it's also the show. We're invested in the station.

QUESTION 13 : Are you and Brenda secretly dating?

BEA: Can we zap her for that?

LORENA: If you think it merits-

BEA: I was kidding! No! We are NOT.

FAN 1: WHERE IS BRENDA?

FAN 2: WE LOVE BRENDA! BRING BACK BRENDA!

[click]

BEA: Wakey-wakey, eggs and Bentley.

BRENDA: Hmmm? Casely! Why are you in my bedroom? Can't say I'm surprised-

BEA: We are in the radio booth. Where you fell asleep alone and fully dressed.

BRENDA: I slept here? That's so gross and out of character.

BEA: You would seriously call me Casely if we woke up together?

BRENDA: Yes, because I respect you as a colleague.

(annoyed/amused acknowledgment)

BEA: I brought you a bagel and a watered down coffee. Well, it's my bagel and watered down coffee but you seem to need it more.

BRENDA: You're an angel. Wait, don't you hate me? Is this a hate bagel?

BEA: I don't-! Listen, I have something to say:

A monk told Joshu: "I have just entered the monastery. Please teach me."

Joshu asked: "Have you eaten your rice porridge?"

The monk replied: "I have eaten."

Joshu said: "Then you had better wash your bowl."

At that moment the monk was enlightened.

BRENDA: Are you becoming a monk?

BEA: It's a Koan! It's a Buddhist koan, because you're so into- oh my god. I have been so focused on making the show deep and enlightening that I wasn't focused on what I actually needed to do to make the show. Maybe that's not what the koan means, I'm not a Buddhist. What's something I know? Okay, so sometimes, I get so caught up in truth, justice, and the American way, that I miss the mark on Superman entirely and become the opposite of Superman. A broody, Batman- doesn't-need-anyone-jerk.

BRENDA: The opposite of Superman is Bizarro. That's right there dude. Do some goddamn research first.

BEA: I'm trying to make peace.

BRENDA: By comparing yourself to the Justice League?

BEA: The Justice League works together and I'm sorry for not being willing to work with you when we worked together. There! An apology!

BRENDA: Thank you. I'm sorry for— (beat)

BEA: You can't think of anything?

BRENDA: I acknowledge that it's hard to legally make an investigative radio show. It's obviously very cool and badass of me to get a confession out a criminal, but we can't play that on air! Not for an upcoming trial. I'm not going to taint the jury pool.

BEA: That is very mature of you.

BRENDA: Because I said "Taint" without laughing? Grow up, Casely.

BEA: That's it, I'm done. Good luck with your non-existent show.

BRENDA: NO LUCK to your non-existent show! ... [Bleep] What are we going to air?

ANDY: Next week on Arden: Bea and Brenda are back to sharing a show. Who saw that coming? Oh, and you might be interested to know that all the miners former Senator Upjohn was exploiting have been offered high-paying jobs with benefits in my diamond mines. They're on the moon. Mining might be destroying the planet, but the moon's not a planet. I checked! So far none of the miners have accepted this offer, so if you are interest apply now at Wheyface Moon Mines dot net backslash legally binding offer.

MYSTERIOUS CALLER: Is this the Arden Tip line? I found your missing person.