

THE LAVENDER LADIES
EPISODE 1
WELCOME TO OLYMPUS

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Good day, friends and enemies, and welcome, to the Lavender Ladies podcast. We have quite a thrilling story to tell you, but before we get along too much further, a warning; this podcast contains swearing, and themes of violence, drugs, sex, organized crime, torture, and murder. Listener discretion is advised. And now, without any further ado, our story begins in the big city, Olympus...

EXT. A DANK ASS WAREHOUSE AROUND THE HARBOR. AROUND 3 AM. SCOOP PULLS UP IN A VAN, SFX OF CAR DOOR SLAMMING AND SOMEONE WALKING IN HIGH HEELS

SCOOP

I thought you quit smoking

SLEDGE

(Barely defending herself, they've had this conversation many times)

I only smoke sometimes. After a good fuck. You know the drill.

SCOOP

That stuff will kill you my dear.

SLEDGE

Yeah like how this job won't. (pause)

It's this way.

//footsteps echo across the concrete floor

SCOOP

(letting out a low whistle) What'd he do to deserve this mess?

SLEDGE

(you know what happened but aren't willing to go into detail) Couldn't hold his drink
I guess.

SCOOP

(To the point)

Alright, cut and dump it. We'll come back for the bloodbath later.

SLEDGE

What if someone happens to find it before we get back?

SCOOP

(silent for a moment)

On this side of town?

(she snorts)

Unless they wanna end up like this fella I doubt they'll be anywhere near here.

(back to business)

Now grab him so we can put him in the van.

SLEDGE

(grunting like she's picking up the body)

You know, sometimes I feel like you ask me to be here just for the heavy lifting.

SCOOP

(feigning innocence)

Now Sledge! You know I just adore your company. I would never-

SLEDGE

(chuckles)

As long as you can get rid of this, I can't complain.

//footsteps echo as they head back to the car behind these lines

SCOOP

You headed to Mr. Stavish's birthday party Friday?

SLEDGE

I thought we were required to go?

SCOOP

Oh we are. I'm just making small talk. Your cigarette gave me an itch.

SLEDGE
You want one?

SCOOP
No. Beak would flip. Offer appreciated though dear.

//a car door opens and we hear the thump of the body being thrown inside, sledge grunting? Door closes

SCOOP
Right, I'll take your little friend down to the harbor for a swim. Be a dear and call Vinny- have him send the rest of the clean up crew to meet me here in oh- (she thinks for a second) two hours? And don't be late.

SLEDGE
(Grunts in response)

//sfx of scoop getting into the van and driving off. Sledge pulls out a cell phone makes a call, Vinny answers.

VINNY
Is it done?

SLEDGE
Yeah. Scoop says to send the rest of the crew down here in two hours.

VINNY
Good. I'll let the boss know.

SLEDGE
She also said don't be late.

VINNY
Right. What was it- two hours?

SLEDGE
Yep.

VINNY
We'll be there in four.

//the phone call ends

SLEDGE

(Lights another cigarette)

Shit. I'll have to pick up the chocolate croissants from The Olympian Bean tomorrow...

//Theme song plays

//bells jingle as ruby pushes through the cafe door

RUBY

Hello? Hari?

(to herself)

God I hope I remembered the right address.

HARI

(coming out of my cage and im doing just fine, jk its the kitchen) Ruby?!

RUBY

Oh my god it's been forever! (to herself again) Third time's a charm!

HARI

What was that?

RUBY

Nothing.

HARI

Did you get lost?

RUBY

N-yes.

HARI

(Laughs)

Rubes how the hell did you get lost? You're not a tourist.

RUBY

Ha ha laugh it up. These street don't look the same as they used to.

HARI

There are only three cafes on this block.

RUBY

(Informative first part, genuine second part)

And all the owners are lovely, but don't do so great with giving directions. (beat)
It's good to see you again.

HARI
It's good to see you too.

RUBY
God, this place looks so different from the last time I was here.

HARI
My parents and I had it renovated before they- y'know...(They trail off)

RUBY
(Trying to pick the mood back up) Well, it looks great.

HARI
Yeah the renovations took a little bit, but a lot of it was DIY and I saved a good amount of money.

RUBY
Now who's watching too much HGTV?

HARI
Look, I'm not saying I could build a house or anything.

RUBY
I think I could. Like 87% sure.

HARI
If that's the case maybe you should switch to food network. It could help with the-
you know...not setting boiling water on fire?

RUBY
That was one time!

HARI
Still doesn't explain how it was possible.

//the two laugh

HARI
Alright, I wanna show you the espresso machine. Now it's a little stubborn, but if
give a little somethin' somethin' and sweet talk, Jura will run smoothly for you.

RUBY
Jura?

HARI
It's the brand name.

RUBY
(to the machine) Hey there Jura? You wanna be friends?

//Jura rumbles and sputters
//RHYTHMIC. COMEDIC. TIMING.

RUBY
I think she hates me. I think she's definitely out to get me. Pretty sure Jura will
have to remain in your Jura-sdiction.

HARI
Fired.

RUBY
Damnit.

HARI
Bad puns aside-

RUBY
(Mumbled)
-I thought it was pretty good-

HARI
-You better make friends quickly. I've got cooking class on Tuesday so you'll be left
to man The Bean.

RUBY
What? That gives me one day to figure this out.

HARI
Relax, I'll only be gone for two hours tops and it'll be a bit before closing so I doubt
you'll have anyone to deal with anyway.

RUBY
You sure that "fired" joke isn't still up for grabs?

HARI

Oh hush. Come on, I wanna show you where we keep the extra cups.
(musical interlude) Imfao fuckin macklemore thrift shop plays in the bg

RUBY

(fighting with Jura) Come on you stupid thing. (she wacks the machine and it sputters at her) Oh don't give me that!

//the door jingles and in comes ya boi vinny. Ruby turns her attention to him

RUBY

(Customer service voice)

Hello, welcome to The Olympian Bean. How can I help you today?

VINNY

Hello yes, I'm looking for Hari.

RUBY

You just missed them. Hari is out at a cooking class today. Is there a message I can give them?

VINNY

Nah, thanks though. I'll just come by later. And if you don't mind me asking, who are you exactly? I haven't seen you around the cafe before.

RUBY

Oh I'm Ruby, I just started. Hari and I have been friends since forever and they emailed me a few months ago about working here. Of course I can't say no to my best friend. I...actually never heard them mention you before. Are you a friend of theirs?

VINNY

Yeah, Hari and I go back a bit. They're a good kid. I brought them some flowers, if you wouldn't mind hanging onto them?

RUBY

Of course! No problem! Oh Lavender, very pretty. This vase is gorgeous too. Is it hand painted?

VINNY

Yeah, my boss picked it out. A nice gift for my good pal. Let them know I stopped by, would ya?

RUBY

Sure! Have a good night!

VINNY

Thanks, Ruby. You too.

//Door jingles as he leaves

RUBY

Oh wait! I didn't catch your name! (Pause) Ahh...hopefully Hari will know who that was... Better start closing up.

//Jura sputters

RUBY

Not another word.

//more sick tunes so we know times going by

/door jingles and hari comes in

HARI

Well...let's see the damages... (a slight pause as Hari looks around the cafe)

Hm...looks okay. Maybe Ruby didn't burn the place down. At least that I can see.

//sounds of them walking across the cafe and heading up stairs

HARI

Ruby? You still here?

//they open the apartment door

RUBY

Hey Hari! How was your class? I made dinner!

HARI

I thought you weren't going to watch Food Network?

RUBY

I don't need to watch the food network when I live with a chef! And besides, this is just my grandma's chicken recipe, nothing special.

HARI

Well, it smells great.

RUBY

Want to set the table? It's all ready

HARI

Yeah sure. Anything fun happen today?

RUBY

Well, this one old lady was a total bitch to me.

HARI

Oh?

RUBY

Yeah, she wanted a, and I quote, (obnoxious voice) "Tall, Half-Caff, Soy Latte At 120 Degrees."

HARI

Oh you mean Linda? Short, greying hair, kinda what you imagine a person would look like if you crossed a human and rat?

RUBY

She's a regular?

HARI

Unfortunately.

RUBY

Yeah, well, she's not too fun. (pauses then remembers) Oh and someone brought flowers today. They're on the counter, what do you think?

HARI

(Hari is silent for a moment) Ruby, who brought them? Did you find them outside the door?

RUBY

No, some nice guy brought them in.

HARI

Vase and everything? They weren't just in his hand?

RUBY

No, he said his boss picked out the vase. They're so pretty, fresh lavender is really expensive. Oh, I didn't catch his name though. He said that you'd know him? Tall guy, brown hair, typical Olympian accent?

HARI

(awkwardly and kind of scared) Yeah. Yeah I know who it was.

RUBY

(teasingly) What do you owe him money or something?

HARI

No, not anym- um, no. It's just, there's a...history between us and I normally do a monthly visit with them...this is just out of the ordinary.

RUBY

Ya big weirdo, friends are normally allowed to visit whenever.

HARI

(awkwardly)

This is a little different.

RUBY

Hari? Is everything alright? You're being weird.

HARI

Yes, sorry. Everything is fine. Did he say anything else?

RUBY

Just that he wanted to talk to you and he'd stop by later. I don't think he meant tonight though.

HARI

How much food did you make?

RUBY

A lot. We'll have left overs. What does that have to do with anything?

//A doorbell rings

RUBY

Hari? Are you okay? You look like you've seen a ghost.

HARI

(trying to remain calm and hide that that ring was probs mafia man) I'm fine. Can you set out another plate? I'm gonna go get the door.

//they walk out

RUBY

Sure? (to herself) Odd to have someone come by at this time of night. Wonder what spooked Hari so bad.

//muffled conversation between Vinny and Hari

HARI

(more cheerful and welcoming to hide their discomfort in not knowing why the fuck vinny's here, you're overcompensating) Hey Vinny, it's good to see you, how have you been?

VINNY

(if you're aware of how uncomfortable hari is, you don't show it) So far so good. Nothing too spectacular is happening. Hire a new girl?

HARI

Yeah, she just moved back here, I'll send you all the information. She's only been back a couple of days.

VINNY

Uh huh. Does she-

HARI

No. She moved when were just starting high school, over a decade ago. We stayed close, and texting and all that but there was nothing else said.

VINNY

Good. Maybe send some of that information by the end of this week?

HARI

Of course, of course. (try to be nice and maybe your death will be swift) Are you hungry?

VINNY

Starved. How was that class?

//voices are officially clear as they've stepped into the kitchen

HARI

Long, but informative. It was probably around four hours.

VINNY

(you don't really care) Sounds real neat. (now this is someone who could become a threat, scope her out so you can report to the boss) Ruby. Good to see you again.

RUBY

(friendly is your middle name) Hello! I don't think I caught your name last time.

VINNY

Vinny. Pleasure to meet you. Hope I'm not interrupting you two. .

RUBY

Not at all! I always make extra, so please help yourself.

//sounds of chairs scraping

VINNY

Ah, I like where you put the flowers.

RUBY

Yeah! I thought it would brighten up the room.

HARI

(again, stay in this man's good graces while hiding shit from Ruby) They are so pretty, thank you for bringing them over.

VINNY

I'm glad they worked out nicely. (sound of taking a bite of the chicken) Mmm. Mm mmm, this is good. (slightly teasing, but this is also good information to bring home) (with mouth slight full) You taking over the shop someday, Ruby?

RUBY

Oh I don't think I could ever compete with Hari. I'm miles behind them.

VINNY

Well you've managed to survive a night without them, so I imagine you could easily take over if say something bad were to ever happen.

//they all laugh, hari more forced and uncomfortable

VINNY

(turning attention to the main reason why you are here) So Hari-

HARI

(panicked, this dude was joking about your death) -Yes sir-I mean, Vinny-

VINNY

(starting over, seemingly oblivious to the heart attack hari will have in 0.3 seconds)
So, Hari, not that this isn't a wonderful dinner party, but I ah, need to talk some
business with you.

HARI

O-oh, of course! Should we go-

RUBY

What kind of business?

//There is a moment of silence. Hari's in panic mode, Vinny may or may not be
slightly enjoying this, Ruby is just, well, Ruby

VINNY

(decides to let her in a bit) Well, you see, my boss and Hari's family go way back.
And, this friday, it is going to be Mister Stavish's sixty fifth birthday party. Miss
Stavish is throwing a big bash, and would like for you to cater the event. I
understand it is short notice.

HARI

The entire event in a week!?! (plead with the man) Vinny, I don't think-

RUBY

-We'd miss out on such a wonderful opportunity!

HARI

(desperately) Ruby, you don't know what this means, please let me do the talking
here, okay?

VINNY

Mister Stavish has always loved your parents' cooking, and knows that they taught
you everything they know.
(is there an underlying threat here? There may be an underlying threat here.)
It would mean a lot for him.

RUBY

(still unaware of the tension) Aw, Hari, how could you say no to that? That's so
sweet.

HARI

Ruby, please.

VINNY

And of course, you'll be compensated for the trouble. Miss Stavish knows you don't usually cater. How does this (slide paper sounds) sound?

RUBY

Holy fuck! Hari, as your newest business partner-

HARI

-Employee.

RUBY

-I vote we cannot pass up this offer.

//there is a moment of silence as hari thinks over the offer

HARI

Vinny, it's just to cater, correct?

VINNY

Of course.

HARI

(nervously) Well, I suppose with Ruby here it could be probable.....(they trail off. Then sure of your answer) Alright. Yes.

We'll cater the party. (nerves creep back in) How, um, how many guests should we expect?

VINNY

I think the guest list is about three hundred and two right now, but we're waiting for the last couple of stragglers to RSVP.

RUBY

Jeez, three hundred people!? This guy must know a quarter of the north side of the burrow.

VINNY

Mister Stavish is a very influential man. It's good to be friends with him.

RUBY

Ah, I catch your drift. Politics.

VINNY

Something like that. Well, then, if the two of you run into any issue at all while preparing, just let us know. Miss Stavish will be happy to assist, send you some sous chefs, whatever you need.

RUBY

Great! This will be wonderful! Thanks so much, Vinny! Tell Miss Stavish we'll be getting to work immediately!

VINNY

Will do. Hari, you know how to reach me. See you.

HARI

Let me walk you out.

//We hear the sounds of dishes being cleaned up as Hari and Vinny walk down to the front of the cafe. Ruby stayed back to put away the leftovers.

RUBY

(to herself) I've never seen Hari look so tense before. Strange, Vinny seemed like such a nice guy.

(we hear footsteps of Hari coming back in)

RUBY

Oh hey. I'm just cleaning up dinner.

HARI

(the fact of what they just agreed to it beginning to sink in so they aren't really into this conversation) Uh huh.

RUBY

Hari? Are you alright?

HARI

How on earth am I going to manage to cater a party of over three hundred people in less than a week?

RUBY

(lighthearted) Well you've got me! (now serious) But seriously, you should probably call up some of Miss Stalin's chef's.

HARI

(miserably)
Stavish.

RUBY

Whatever. We'll manage. (again, work to lighten that mood) We've crammed more ridiculous projects in less time for Mr. Gallagher's class.

HARI

(chuckling a bit) I still don't understand how we got a B+ on a powerpoint thrown together in two hours before school nonetheless.

RUBY

My sunny disposition was just what the presentation needed. Now come on, let's draft that menu of yours.

//musical interlude

HARI

(Urgently) Hey ready to go?

RUBY

Yeah I got my hat on backwards and I'm ready to fuckin-

HARI

Yeah don't ah...don't quote vines when we go to this thing.

(Pause)

Um, what are you wearing?

RUBY

What am I wearing? Wait what are you wearing? Do you have an actual tux on? We're catering, not attending. And besides, it's so hot out, you're gonna melt.

HARI

Ruby, trust me, you cannot wear jeans and a tee. Let me look in your closet. Are you leaving your hair like that?

RUBY

Well I was anticipating wearing jeans so. Yeah.

HARI

Well fix it! Up or down, but it's gotta be formal.

RUBY

Hari, I've catered events before. We never wore-

HARI

Trust me when I tell you this is nothing like you've ever experienced. Here,
(we hear sounds of hari flipping through clothes in a closet)
wear this dress.

(they shove it to her)

And not to be bossy, but please be quick, Miss Stavish is sending a car pick us- and
all the food up.

RUBY

This seems over the top, sending us a car?

(back to main topic)

How do I look?

HARI

Lovely, just fix that hair.

//car honk

HARI

(nerves creep in again) That must be Vinny.

RUBY

Is something wrong? Whenever Vinny shows up, I swear, you jump at least five
feet.

HARI

It's fine Ruby. (changing the subject) I'm going to go help load the car. Come down
with the cake when you're ready and please be quick about it.

//we hear them walk out of the room

RUBY

Hmm. (she debates over a hairstyle) Like this maybe? Eh, looks good enough.

//We hear her walk out of the room

RUBY

Ah there's that cake. Jesus, do you think Hari could've made it any taller?

HARI

(distantly) Ruby, are you coming or not?

RUBY

I just grabbed the cake, keep your pants on.

//music changes to more romantic party as we hear the car driving up

RUBY

Jesus Hari, you didn't tell me that we'd be working at a fucking estate.

HARI

Aren't you glad I made you change?

RUBY

(in awe of the fucking size of the house) Yes, definitely.

HARI

(whispering to her) Alright, listen now, these parties can get a little (they trail off, looking for the right word) Crazy. So be careful, okay?

RUBY

Hari, I went to one of the top party schools in the state, I think I'll be okay.

HARI

(Worried)

Hm.

//the car pulls to a stop and Beak opens the door for them to get out.

HARI

(nervously, searching for if they're cool with each other) H-hey! Beak! Wow, it's so good to see you?

BEAK

(blandly) What's shakin bacon?

HARI

(not getting it) Oh, heh, you know, uh, catering and all that. No bacon but uh...
How's, um, how's Scoop?

BEAK

She's great, doing the things, living the life. Same tune.

//there's an awkward pause

BEAK

Sooo, who's your friend?

HARI
Oh! Um-

RUBY
(butting in) I'm Ruby! I work with Hari back at the cafe. (Hari elbows her in the ribs and she lets out a soft oof) What was that for?

HARI
(awkwardly/harshly)
Ruby, why don't you let me do the talking, alright?

VINNY
Yo. You guys gonna fuckin chit chat all day or help me move this.

BEAK
Aw shut the hell up, you're here to do the heavy lifting?

VINNY
(audible eye roll hannah this is all you)
Get your ass over here, would you? And Hari, if you two want to go inside and grab a drink, we'll take it from here.

RUBY
Yeah! That sounds great! (to Hari) I can't wait to see the inside of this place!

HARI
(muttering)
Yeah...should be great.

//Hari and Ruby walk up to the door, hari is about to knock and the door opens

SCOOP
(has opened the door maybe idfk know yet shut up)
Hari darling! Welcome back! It's so nice to see you again!

HARI
Oh, uh, hey Scoop, been awhile.

SCOOP
(joyful)
Way too long! Come in, come in! Let's get you something to drink. Hari, you still like ginger ale? (uwu) And who's this?

RUBY
Oh, I'm Ruby!

SCOOP
Lovely. Call me Scoop. Can I get you something to drink?

RUBY
Just water would be nice, thank you.

SCOOP
Right. "Water". I'll have them get that going for you. Pardon, can you get this young lady some "water"? Thank you. How's business been, Hari?

HARI
Can't complain, very steady.

SCOOP
It was so kind of you to cater this event, I know Miss Stavish really appreciates it.

HARI
O-oh, I'm glad to hear that.

SCOOP
And we really are impressed with the amount of work you've gotten done with such short notice.

HARI
I couldn't have done it without Ruby.

//spoon tapping on a glass, a hush falls over party

JOSEPH
Good evening, my friends, my family, and some newer faces. It's an honor, truly, to have you all here tonight. I never thought I'd be celebrating with such a lovely crowd, and I couldn't ask for a better party. I want to take this time to thank my lovely daughter, Aster, for setting all this up.
//Clapping that's probably quiet underneath these next few lines

RUBY
(quietly to Hari)
Wait, I thought Miss Stavish was his wife?

HARI

(whispering back)

Misses Stavish died about ten years ago. His daughter does all this kind of stuff now.

JOSEPH

And of course, before we dig into this beautiful meal, I'd like to thank the caterer, Hari Sadana, who's picked up their parent's mastery of delicious food. And now, to our health, na zdrowie! (no-stro vie ya)
//the crowd replies `na zdrowie`

RUBY

Aster doesn't look like someone who'd set up a party.

HARI

What? What do you mean?

RUBY

I don't know, I mean, look at her. She seem so powerful and regal, like she should be off commanding those beneath her to take out opposing rulers, not sit around planning her dad's goddamn birthday party.

HARI

(nervous laughter) You have no idea. (trying to steer away from this) Look, let's talk more about the host when we get home, okay?

SLEDGE

Hello, Hari, and...Ruby, right?

RUBY

Yeah. Word travels fast I guess.

SLEDGE

Sledge.

RUBY

Nice to meet you!

BEAK

(Mouth full maybe)

Oh Hari, this food is the bomb.

HARI

Thanks, Beak.

BEAK

You know what else is the bomb? Dancing! Scoop my babe, will you do me the honor?

SLEDGE

You are ridiculous.

BEAK

Aw, Sledge I'm sorry. You wanna dance too, don't you?

SLEDGE

No thank you.

BEAK

You sure? It might be your only way out.

SLEDGE

Out of what?

BEAK

Talking to Bobbi. Here she comes! Good luck!

SLEDGE

(groans)

I think I'll take you up on that offer, actually.

SCOOP

(quickly, trying to get the sentence out as Bobbi approaches) Too late, my dear, Beak's my dance partner. Bobbi! You're ah...looking lovely this evening.

BOBBI

Oh thank you Scoop, you look lovely as always. Your arm candy is cute too I suppose.

SCOOP

Now hold-

BEAK

Thanks. Uh. we're gonna hit the floor now. Nice seeing you, Bobbi.

BOBBI

You too! Hari, the food was wonderful- oh did you bring a date?

HARI

Actually, Ruby is my official assistant. She helped me cater the event.

BOBBI

Well, nice to meet you, and congratulations, this meal was incredible. Uncle Joe really had a nice birthday party... (seductively) Sledge.

SLEDGE

Bobbi.

BOBBI

(Make a flirtatious hum? Like a hmm like she's thinking but she has a smirk on her face)

Seeing those two lovebirds waltzing away, doesn't that make you want to dance?

SLEDGE

It makes me want to vomit.

BOBBI

Oh come now, darling, I'm sure you won't be saying that when I'm swinging you around the dance floor.

SLEDGE

(think of: texting on a phone when someone asks for you number 'i don't have a phone')

I've sprained my ankle. I'm trying to stay off it.

BOBBI

We could always just sway in each other's arms then? It's been so long since we've, 'talked'.

SLEDGE

Actually, Aster wanted me to grab Hari so Mister Stavish could talk to them. Work comes first. Hari, are you finished eating?

HARI

(caught off guard and lookin' green)

Oh, uh, yeah...yeah that's fine. I'll be right back, Ruby.

RUBY

Take your time!

//Sledge and Hari leave.

BOBBI
(huffs)
Aster...
(eyes up Ruby)
You're really new here aren't you?

RUBY
Well yes and no. I lived here as a kid and then we moved away but I'm back so
things are kinda diff- and you're walking away. Okay.
(busying herself)
Hi, like a piece of cake?

//a small pause, Ruby's just enjoying the ambiance of the party. She doesn't notice
Aster walking up to her.

ASTER
So, you must be what the buzz is about. (tasting the name on her tongue) Ruby.
My favorite gem actually with elegance and class.

RUBY
(flustered)
Oh right. Yes. Nice to meet you, Miss ah... (slightly forgot for a second) Stavish.

ASTER
(Amused)
Please, don't burden yourself. Just call me Aster. (slight pause) Would you like a
drink?

RUBY
Oh, um, yes that would be nice.

ASTER
Lovely. (she calls to the waiter) Yen, two glasses of champagne, if you would.

RUBY
(With a smile, this is getting easier and less awkward)
Champagne? Are we celebrating something?

ASTER
There's always something to cheer for. A party well pulled off, excellent food...
meeting a new friend.

//Yen comes with the glasses

ASTER

Thank you. Here you are Ruby. To your health.

RUBY

Oh, thank you, and to yours.

//sfx glasses lightly tap, they take a sip, another slight pause

ASTER

Have you been in Olympus long? Vinny mentioned you moved back here.

RUBY

Just a few days, actually. But I love it here so much! We moved out when I was so young. I'm glad Hari and I managed to keep in touch.

ASTER

So what brings you back here then?

RUBY

Well, I got my degree in theater, and the small town I was living in barely had a community theater let alone any sort of productions going on, and well, I really want to make it in the big leagues here.

ASTER

(Oh now this is getting interesting)
Big leagues, huh?

RUBY

Yes! Can you imagine, performing in a theater of over a thousand people? Your name in lights on the billboards? That's the dream.

ASTER

Have you started auditioning yet?

RUBY

(kind of sadly, a bittersweet smile)

Yeah...unfortunately I've been turned away at each one. 'You need experience' they say. But how do I get experience without having experience?

ASTER

(accepting that like she's just some theater kid and not working for Lonescu or some shit)Such is the business, I suppose.

RUBY
Show business.

ASTER
They don't know what they're missing.

RUBY
(still kind of nervous)
Your house is beautiful, by the way.

ASTER
Almost as much as the company.

RUBY
Wh-whaaat? Haha, you're too nice.

ASTER
I'm just saying it like it is... (gentle jazz is heard underneath to signify the invitation of the dance) Would you like to dance?

RUBY
Oh, I'm not much of a dancer, I'm afraid. Two left feet.

ASTER
I can say the same for myself. What say we embarrass ourselves together on the dance floor?

RUBY
You promise I won't be alone in making myself look like a clown?

ASTER
I'll be with you every step.

RUBY
Was that pun intentional?

ASTER
Maybe. Shall we?

//we cut to Hari, chatting with Sledge and Beak

BEAK

How you doin' champ? Breathing okay?

HARI

Yes, yes I'm fine...I'm just glad this night was a success. I'm not like, going to have a panic attack.

BEAK

You sure as shit were earlier. But it makes me happy to know we can keep you on your toes.

SLEDGE

(surprising them, putting a hand on their shoulder)

Besides-

HARI

AH! Ahhh, man, wow it's getting late, isn't it?

BEAK

(laughing at them)
You fucking chicken.

SLEDGE

Besides, there was nothing to worry about. You're the food genius after all.

BEAK

I'm surprised you managed to pull it off at all!

SLEDGE

(scolding)
Beak.

BEAK

What? I'm just saying, it was great! Anyways-Sledge, I've got 5 bucks, you in?

SLEDGE

I've got 56 cents.

BEAK

That works fine.

SLEDGE

But you can't be in charge of the money again. We'll have to see if Diamond is around to hold it. Fool me once.

BEAK

You act like I robbed you blind!

SLEDGE

You did.

BEAK

I did not! Besides, I got all the cash back so who cares?

SLEDGE

That guy you robbed, probably.

BEAK

Whatever. Should we rope in Scoop on this too?

HARI

What, um, what are you buying?

BEAK

Oh, not buying, we're betting.

HARI

On what?

BEAK

Your assistant.

HARI

What? What about her?

SLEDGE

She and Aster are getting close. I think they're going to fuck before the nights over.

HARI

(incredibly nervous)

What makes you say that!?

BEAK

Aster is smitten, she's going to propose marriage, like tomorrow.

SLEDGE

Is that the wager you really want to go with?

HARI

(a slight pause)

Ruby and I should be heading out. We have to get everything ready to open in the morning.

SLEDGE

Good luck with collecting her.

HARI

What? What do you mean?

BEAK

(Very amused)

She's found a new dance partner.

HARI

What!? Oh... Oh no.

//back to Ruby and Aster

RUBY

I thought you said you couldn't dance.

ASTER

I couldn't dance- alone. How foolish would I look waltzing around by myself? They might call the nut house.

RUBY

You tricked me. I'm alone in my embarrassment.

ASTER

You have nothing to be embarrassed about, darling. Look at that you're catching on quickly. And besides, shouldn't an actor know how to dance?

RUBY

I think you're overestimating my ability.

ASTER

Nonsense. I think you're doing a great job sweeping me off of my feet.

RUBY

(a little flustered)

That's besides the point.

ASTER

Well then, I am sorry Ruby. Can you find it in your heart to forgive a lying cheat like me?

RUBY

I suppose. But- (feeling bold) you'll have to make it up to me.

ASTER

(Sees the challenge and does not hesitate to throw the ball right back) Well then, maybe I can start with another glass of wine? And a tour of my home?

RUBY

I think I'd like that.

//a transition music

RUBY

Yeah that wine went right to my head...I don't ah- I don't normally do this.

ASTER

Do what? Have a good time with another attractive woman? You don't have anything to be ashamed about, darling.

RUBY

(teasing)

You're very full of yourself, aren't you?

ASTER

Can you blame me? Somehow I managed to convince a beautiful lady to spend some (pause) quality time with me... we're drinking my favorite wine, and I have a phenomenal view.

RUBY

(flustered)

You're too much.

//they enjoy a comfortable silence.

ASTER

If you'd like, since it's so late, you're always welcome to stay the night...maybe we can enjoy each other's company even more?

RUBY

Wait, how late is it? (pause) Two am!?! Oh no, the cafe opens in four hours! I'm sorry Aster, I have to get back-

ASTER

It's no trouble, I'll drive you.

RUBY

Can you toss me my shirt, please?

ASTER

Of course. (thoughtful pause) Do you know something?

RUBY

Hm?

ASTER

Ruby isn't actually my favorite gem. It's opal.

RUBY

(slight disappointment)
Oh. Well...opals are pretty-

ASTER

But I think after this...my opinion has been swayed...quite heavily.

RUBY

(understanding)
Glad you've had a change of heart.

//transition cafe music

RUBY

Thank you for driving me back. I had a really great time.

ASTER

Me too.

RUBY

Will I get to see you again?

ASTER

Here, take my card. You should call me sometime. I'll see you, (taste the name again) Ruby.

//sfx car driving off into the distance

RUBY
Bye...

//sfx the cafe door chime

HARI
Do you have ANY idea what time it is!?

RUBY
Hari-

HARI
THREE AM! We open in three hours, Ruby! Three! H o u r s!

RUBY
Hari, I know, I'm sorry, I lost track of time-

HARI
For eight hours!?!

RUBY
We...ah, we were drinking.

HARI
Amazing. Truly amazing.

RUBY
I'm sorry, Hari! Really, at least I'm here now. Aster offered to let me stay the night, and that's when I realized the time!

HARI
You better be sorry! I cannot believe any of this! I didn't even know where you went until Vinny said he'd drive me back, and when I asked about you, he said- he said you were with her!

RUBY
Hari, buddy, I think you're overreacting.

HARI

I think you're underreacting! Do you have any idea who you've done?

RUBY

(getting offended)

As a matter of fact, I do! I am a grown ass adult and if I want to go out and have a good time with someone-

HARI

But that's the thing Ruby!! This isn't just some random someone!

RUBY

I get that Aster is in politics and very influential-

HARI

In politics?! Influential?! Ruby, do you have any idea what you've done?

RUBY

What are you talking about?

HARI

(losing it-maybe go up a pitch)

What am I talking about? You fucked the biggest mob boss in Olympus!

The Lavender Ladies Podcast is an independently produced podcast and made possible through listeners like you. The lavender ladies was written and created by Megan McClenathan, and edited by Jade, Hannah, and Molly Rae. The lavender ladies theme song was composed and performed by Benny James. The audio editing for the Lavender Ladies was done by Hannah. The voices you heard in today's episodes in order of appearance are as follows: the voice of Scoop was Jade. The voice of Sledge was Delta Christine. The voice of Vinny was Dylan. The voice of Ruby was Cole Burkhardt. The voice of Hari was Hannah C. The voice of Beak was Molly Rae. The voice of Joseph was Paddy. The voice of Bobbi was Seren Paoelli-DePizzo. The voice of Aster was Megan. And the voice of the introducer was myself, Benny James. For more information on the Lavender Ladies, please follow us on tumblr at thelavenderladies.tumblr.com, and our twitter, at [LavenderLadyPod](https://twitter.com/LavenderLadyPod).

