

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...

//sfx cafe doors being slammed open and shut, then followed by the gentle open and close-angry footsteps and shit

ASTER

I like when I can walk you to the door, but I'm enjoying this anger in you. No goodbye kiss?

RUBY

(stuttering out of anger)
Wh-what? You can't be serious.

ASTER

Or a nice long embrace, I'm a flexible woman.

RUBY

You're unbelievable. I can't do this right now.

//ruby starts to walk away

ASTER

(jokingly)
Is something wrong?

//Beat

RUBY

You just gambled your friend's life and you're asking me if somethings wrong?
Asking me for a kiss?

ASTER

Oh my love, Beak was never in any danger.

RUBY

Uh, it really didn't look like it to me!

ASTER

(small laugh)

I was guaranteed to win. Even with his incompetence, I was cheating.

RUBY

And that's supposed to make me feel better?

ASTER

It means I had it all under control.

//Ruby scoffs

ASTER

My dear, you asked to come with us. What do you want from me?

RUBY

I want you to stop pretending that it's all okay that you just gambled with
someone's life! Literally!

ASTER

It is all okay. No one was injured. Except Lonescu's pride.

RUBY

This is what I'm talking about! You don't care about anyone, do you?
(A pause, Aster gives no response, fueling the fire.)
When Lonescu brought up your mom, you didn't even bat an eye! What was
that about!?

ASTER

(now pissed)

I don't rise up to bait from an ignorant man, and I'm not going to do it now, either Ruby. Keep your nose out of where it doesn't belong.

RUBY

Oh, so bringing me into your gang and seeing you hurt people is okay, but bringing up your mother is off limits? I'm beginning to think you didn't even care.

ASTER

I care very much. Letting Lonescu see any weakness could have meant a downfall.

RUBY

A weakness? Is that what emotions are to you?

ASTER

Emotions are the defining feature of the out of controlled. Emotions should remain in check and be utilized when necessary.

They are merely a tool for manipulating others. As an actor, I'd have assumed you'd know that.

RUBY

Excuse me! What's that supposed to mean?

ASTER

I'm thinking there's a reason you haven't gotten cast. You can't understand how to portray your feelings when stakes are high.

RUBY

I-

ASTER

It's cowardly, don't you think? At least I'm not afraid to get what I want. I run this town, Ruby. What do you do? You work in a cafe that my money built.

RUBY

If you're so noble, why don't I just go share this information with police? I bet they'd love to hear about how kind and thoughtful you are to help such lowlifes like Hari and I. Maybe the mayor will give you the key to the city.

ASTER

You wouldn't dare. You don't have the guts.

RUBY

Maybe I'm the best actor you've ever met and I've been playing you this entire time.

ASTER

You jeopardize my Ladies and you'll regret it for as long as you live.

RUBY

Oh now care about them? So tell me, are they only important to you when you have something to gain from them?

ASTER

They are my family. They mean everything to me.

RUBY

And what I am, Aster? What am I to you?

ASTER

Right now, you're a threat.

//Pause

RUBY

I see.

ASTER

Ruby, why don't we-

RUBY

No, I get it. Your one night stand has overstayed her welcome.

ASTER

It's not like that, and you know it.

RUBY

(still pissed)

I need some time to think. And right now, I think you should leave.

//another pause

ASTER

Fine. But a warning. If you even think of going to the cops, just remember that if you're playing in the kitchen, you're going to get burned.

//She leaves, the cafe door slamming behind her. There's a pause, then suddenly Ruby lets out a shaky sigh. Hari then walks in.

HARI

Rubes? You okay? I heard yelling.

RUBY

I'm...It's fine. Aster and I-
(she pauses, debating falling apart in her friends' arms)
We're on a break.

//theme song

//bg sounds of a tv on

HARI

Hey Rube-

RUBY

Can't talk. Crocheting.

HARI

I noticed. Is my couch still there or have you crocheted us a new one? What's with all this yarn?

RUBY

I'm making Linda a hat. I thought white and blue stripes would look nice on her.

HARI

Uh, to what purpose?

RUBY

Maybe if we're super nice to her and bake her cookies and stuff, she'll stop submitting noise complaints at 2 in the afternoon when I'm listening to my sick tunes.

HARI

I think she'll bitch about you harassing her.

RUBY

Impossible, this wool is cozy enough to melt even the coldest of hearts.

HARI

Is that why you've been curled up in it for the past week?

// Ruby doesn't respond

HARI

Listen Rubes, I know I said I wouldn't push-

RUBY

(cold) Then don't.

HARI

I won't. But you can't spend all your days holed up in a mountain of colorful string.

RUBY

Watch me.

HARI

Ruby-

RUBY

It's not a big deal Hari.

HARI

Not a big deal? You've barely left the cafe since you and Aster-

RUBY

I thought you'd be jumping for joy that I wasn't "fucking the biggest mob boss in Olympus."

HARI

I'm not saying that I'm not happy you two are having a little break, don't get me wrong. I really think she's bad news, but...I'm worried about you Rubes.

RUBY

I'm fine, Hari.

HARI

(sigh) Ruby-

// Ruby's cell phone rings

HARI

I can't believe that's still your ringtone.

RUBY

SHUT UP ITS VALERIE!

HARI

Who?

RUBY

(to hari) Shhh! (to the phone) Hello?

VALERIE

Is this Ruby Za-gato?

RUBY

Zagata, yes, speaking.

VALERIE

So not like a kitty cat?

RUBY

Uh, what?

VALERIE

That's a shame. Anyways, my name is Valerie Vero and I am the director for the play, The Stand. We have been reviewing auditions and would like to offer you a role! Are you interested?

RUBY

I-

VALERIE

Zagato?

RUBY

Sorry, I'm-wow, thank you!

VALERIE

Is this you accepting?

RUBY

Yes, yes, yes! Thank you so much!

VALERIE

Splendid! Rehearsals start whenever I feel like it at whatever place I'm in at the moment

RUBY

Is this usually how professional theaters are run?

VALERIE

Absolutely not! My stage manager will be in touch, ta!

//ruby hangs up

HARI

So...who's Valerie?

RUBY

The director for one of the plays I auditioned for! I got a role!

HARI

Oh my god Ruby, that's amazing! I can't wait for you to get off of my couch!

RUBY

Hey I pay rent!

HARI

Just kidding! I can't wait to see my couch. No more crocheting then?

RUBY

Nope! Not until I melt Linda's cold cold heart!

HARI

Then I think you'll be crocheting until she finally dies.

RUBY

I don't think she can die. Like one of those immortal witches who are just here to make the rest of us miserable.

HARI

That's one way to put Linda.

//they laugh they cry they carry on and we get transition music

LEAD (TAYLOR)

And yet- despite everything, with the stolen goods and illegal cartel, how is it there is no trail behind them? It simply doesn't make sense! With my expertise and team behind me, there's not a single logical explanation-unless, unless the perpetrator has been hiding among my team the entire time! Thus-

VALERIE

Hold! Taylor, can you put your hand on Casey's shoulder on your line "with my expertise and team behind me"?

TAYLOR

Sure thing.

VALERIE

Great, let's take it from the top of your monologue again.

TAYLOR

And yet-

VALERIE

Ruby, what are you doing?

RUBY

Waving my arms?

VALERIE

Exactly, it's so boring. Find your objective and seize it!

RUBY

As a tree?

VALERIE

Precisely! Find your leafy passion and dance my little oak!

STAGE MANAGER (BLAKE)

Ma'am, we're at time.

VALERIE

(sigh) Thank you Blake. 10 minute break everyone, Ruby, think on that objective.

RUBY
Yes ma'am.

//everyone in the room starts talking really fucking loudly

TAYLOR
Hey Ruby.

RUBY
Hey Taylor, wanna help me find my leafy passions?

TAYLOR
As fun as that sounds, I have something better in mind.

RUBY
More fun than tree-riffic objectives? Impossible.

TAYLOR
I was going to invite you out after rehearsal, but after that horrible pun-

RUBY
Not horrible.

TAYLOR
Debatable.

ACTOR #2 (CASEY)
I heard someone say "horrible pun" and want to know more about the pun-ishment.

//Taylor groans

RUBY
Thank you Casey.

TAYLOR
You are both uninvited.

CASEY
Come on Tay Tay you wuv me and we can't leave out our tree-riffic castmate.

RUBY

Already used that one Case.

CASEY

Dammit, you beat me to the pun-ch.

TAYLOR

Is this hell?

CASEY

Abso-fucking-lutely.

RUBY

Only like, the third circle though.

TAYLOR

Well, if the two of you somehow manage to find us a way out, you could join Blake and I for drinks after rehearsal.

CASEY

Kicking it with the SM? Classy, I'm in.

RUBY

Where we going?

TAYLOR

Blake's got an in at Ultraviolet, figured we'd check it out.

CASEY

Dope, I've heard that place is tight.

TAYLOR

Ruby, you in?

//pause

TAYLOR

Ruby?

RUBY

Uh, gee you know, that sounds super fun and all, but Hari has me working the caf tonight. Can't-love to, but, can't.

TAYLOR

(can smell the bullshit)

Oh yeah?

RUBY

Yeah, they're super strict on these things. Sorry guys, I know it's lame.

CASEY

Man, Hari seems super controlling. Shame all they do is let you come to rehearsal and that's it.

RUBY

W-well, it's not exactly like that-

TAYLOR

Then call them.

RUBY

What?

TAYLOR

Call them. Right now. If they say no, I won't ask again, but this is the fifth time you've dodged my invitation and (fake offence) I'm starting to get a little offended.

RUBY

I-uh-okay.

// phone ringing dial tone bs

TAYLOR

Put it on speaker, I wanna ask them why if they say no.

HARI

Thank you for calling the Olympian Bean, this is Hari how can I help you?

RUBY

Hey Hari, it's Ruby, some of the cast wants to go out for drinks after rehearsal and

(hint hint i dont want to fucking go)

I know how busy the cafe gets around this time.

HARI

(snorts, not catching on) Busy? It's been so slow, I've considered closing early to save on power. Go have fun, oh, and let me know if you need a ride. I'll see you later Rubes.

// end call

TAYLOR
Super busy huh?

RUBY
An odd night?

TAYLOR
Whatever, looks like you're gonna come kick it with us tonight. Trust me, we'll make it memorable.

RUBY
Believe me, Ultraviolet already is.

// transition music
//club sound effects

LOLA
Blake! It's been too long!

BLAKE
You know the theater, keeps one busy.

LOLA
That it does. And who are the rest of these lovelies?

BLAKE
Some of Valerie's cast. Bunch of crazies, if you ask me.

TAYLOR
Blake!
(to Lola)
I'm Taylor and that's Casey and Ruby.

LOLA
(obviously recognizes her and gets a little suspicious)
Ruby...

RUBY

Uh yeah. N..nice to meet you! Hey we should, uh get a booth or something...

CASEY

Looking to get turnt!

TAYLOR

Who the fuck says "turnt"?

CASEY

Me, bitch.

BLAKE

Told you. Insane. The lot of them.

LOLA

(laughs) Candy will show you to your table.

CASEY

Lit.

TAYLOR

Casey stop, you're not cool.

CASEY

Highly debatable but go off I guess.

//music rises to drown them out and signify a small transition

CANDY

Hello welcome, and welcome back familiar faces...Alright and what are we drinking tonight?

TAYLOR

I'll take a Purple Haze.

CASEY

I'll have a Lavender Martini.

BLAKE

I'll take straight Vodka, just give me the whole bottle.

RUBY

Something with alcohol.

CANDY

(to Ruby)

The regular then? Okay I'll be right back with those.

//she leaves

TAYLOR

I know we'd always joke about getting to play a rock or a tree, but damn Valerie...

RUBY

Hm?

TAYLOR

I'm still in awe that I'm in an actual Olympian show with someone as a tree. I mean, I've worked with crazy directors before, but damn.

CASEY

You know nothing of crazy, I had a director who double casted an entire show.

RUBY

What's so weird about that?

CASEY

They had them all perform. Together. On the same night. (sighs) I know Shakespeare is very open to interpretations, but I don't think double the Juliets is something he'd have in mind.

BLAKE

Believe me, SM-ing doesn't make dealing with weird directors any easier.

RUBY

Got an example?

BLAKE

(long heavy sigh) You really don't want to know.

CASEY

Well now I definitely do.

BLAKE

(benny just improv whatever, just make it as crazy as possible)

TAYLOR
Oh shit.

BLAKE
That's an understatement. But really, as long as they let me act and pay me for it, I don't care how weird the director or role is.

CASEY
Hear, hear!

//candy struts tf up

CANDY
Here are your drinks ladies, let me know if you need anything else. Anything else.

BLAKE
Thanks Candy.

//candys struts tf away

CANDY
Should we tell Aster she's here?

LOLA
With the state she's in? Best leave it be.

//transition-ish music to signify that Ruby is getting fucked up--everyone but candy are fucked up in this scene

CANDY
Here we are, another round for the aspiring fame seeking actors. This one's on the house.

CASEY
Candy, did anyone ever tell you how amazing you are?

RUBY
Yeah! Sledge says it all the time!

TAYLOR

Sledge?

CANDY
My girlfriend.

BLAKE
Your girlfriend's name is Sledge?

TAYLOR
Wait-you know each other?

CANDY
Only in passing. Sledge and the gang say hi, Ruby.

//candy leaves again

TAYLOR
Wait-so have you known everyone here this whole time?

RUBY
No not like. Not really.

BLAKE
Spill the deets, Ruby!

RUBY
Okay okay...my girlfriend owns this place.

CASEY
So we've technically been able to get free drinks this entire time, and you've been holding out on us?

RUBY
No-we
(sighs)
We're on a break right now, and it's kind of awkward...

TAYLOR
Ah so that's why you didn't want to join us.

BLAKE
At least everyone here seems super chill about it.

RUBY

Yeah-I don't really want to talk about it, if you guys don't mind?

CASEY

Oh yeah totally, sure. Besides, it's getting super late.

BLAKE

Oh fuck, I have a dentist appointment in the morning.

TAYLOR

Fuckin' finally.

BLAKE

Piss off. I better head out. See you guys at rehearsal.

/chair scraping as Blake leaves

CASEY

Wait! You're my ride! Uh,see you guys!

/casey leaves too

RUBY

And then there were two.

TAYLOR

Actually Rube, it's getting super late. I think I'm gonna bounce too. You gonna be okay getting home?

RUBY

Oh yeah, I'll be totally fine. See you later.

/Taylor leaves.

RUBY

And then there was me.

AMBER

Mind if I join you?

RUBY

Go ahead.

//pause

AMBER

So what brings you to Ultraviolet on this fine Wednesday night?

RUBY

Do you want the long answer or the short one?

AMBER

Well, I've got plenty of time, why not the long one?

RUBY

My roommate and boss tells me I'm working too hard and needed a night to relax. I think it's bullshit but I haven't drank in forever.

AMBER

Why do they think that?

RUBY

I'm on a break with my girlfriend but I miss her so much so I'm trying to keep myself distracted-but what does Hari know? They've never dated a super powerful, hot hunk of woman before!

AMBER

(laughs a little) No?

RUBY

No! Telling me they know best. They don't know. They have no idea what it's like!

AMBER

Have you tried talking to them?

RUBY

Yes! But it's always 'Ruby, she's a crime lord blah blah blah murder and death and swindling money blah blah blah.'

AMBER

They're probably right.

RUBY

But its not just Hari. Ast-My girlfriend and I kinda had a fight.

AMBER
Oh?

RUBY
We went out a few nights ago and just.....Things got intense.

AMBER
How so?

RUBY
She got this look in her eye, like she wasn't herself anymore. I don't know, it scared me I guess.

AMBER
So what are you going to do? Break up with her?

RUBY
No! I mean, She terrifies me to no end and I never know what to expect but...(she sighs) I've never felt this way about anyone. I miss her like crazy but I don't know how to make things right. I said some things that I shouldn't have and-(she cuts herself off)

AMBER
And?

RUBY
I don't know if I should leave it alone. Hari's right. I'm in over my head.

AMBER
Is she worth it?

RUBY
I don't kn-Yes. Yes, she is.

AMBER
You don't care that the woman you're spending so much time with is a murderer?

RUBY
I mean. She's not trying to kill me. I think so anyways.

AMBER
I very much doubt she's trying to kill you.

RUBY

See! That's what I'm saying! She likes me, I like her. Things should be great.

AMBER

Except for the murder.

RUBY

Exactly. You get me.

AMBER

More than you know.

RUBY

What was that?

AMBER

It looks like they're closing up. Come on, I'll take you home.

RUBY

Sorry but I'd rather not end up on the 10pm news. I'll just call Hari.

AMBER

Suit yourself, have a nice night..... Ruby

RUBY

Wait you know my name but I don't know yours!

AMBER

Amber, My name is Amber.

The Lavender Ladies Podcast is a Goose Thunder Network 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 Aster was Megan. The voice of Ruby was Cole Burkhart. The voice of Hari was Georie Taylor. The voice of Valerie was Serena Bailey. The voice of Taylor was Noah Meridith. The voice of Blake was Benny James. The voice of Casey was Jordan. The voice of Lola was Jessica Yang. The voice of Candy was

Lee Francis. The voice of Amber was Kari. And the voice of the introducer was myself, Benny James.

For more information on the Lavender Ladies, please check out our website: www.thelavenderladiespodcast.com, follow us on tumblr at thelavenderladies.tumblr.com, and our twitter, at LavenderLadyPod.

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