

As The Phantom Turns A Soap Opera

By Eric Webster

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CAST

The Phantom <i>The Crew of “Whispers of Scandal”</i> Director Production Assistants 1 Production Assistants 2 Producer Show Sponsor Executives 1 Show Sponsor Executives 2 Camera Operators 1 Camera Operators 2 Boom Mic Operator – <i>(Old and crazy)</i> Clapper Loader Grip <i>The Actors of “Whispers of Scandal”</i> Julianna Sterling 1 Julianna Sterling 2 Understudy Cole Rivera Marcus Sterling Elena Sterling Beatrice Sterling Captain Sterling Abigail Dr. Aris Thorne Lawyer Minister Monique Dewinter Evangeline St. Clair Show Announcer <i>The Crew of “Breaking Brad”</i> Director Production Assistants 1 Production Assistants 2 Boom Operator <i>(Same as other boom operator but younger)</i> Clapper Loader Camera Operators 1 Camera Operators 2 Grip	<i>The Actors of “Breaking Brad” –</i> <i>*ALSO WEDDING ENSEMBLE</i> Theme song singer Brad *Seargent *Brad’s Partner *Reporter Camera Operator <i>THE NEON VIPERS</i> *Linda (Leader of the Neon Viper Gang) *Cyber *Laser *Video *Short Circuit *Spandex <i>WHEAT AND MEAT TREATS COMMERCIALS CAST</i> <i>*ALSO IN ENSEMBLE (Wedding Scene Guests/Bank Patrons/Extra</i> <i>filming crew)</i> <u>COMMERCIAL ONE</u> *Mom *Dad *Kid 1 *Kid 2 *Kid 3 *Grandma Chef Jingle Singer <u>COMMERCIAL TWO</u> Quinn Quackenbush Chef *Kid 1 *Grandma Wedding Guest One Wedding Guest Two Wedding Guest Three Wedding Guest Four Wedding Guest Five Wedding Guest Six Wedding Guest Seven Wedding Guest Eight Wedding Guest Nine Wedding Guest Ten Wedding Guest Eleven Wedding Guest Twelve
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OPENS ON THE SET OF A TV STUDIO- CS AND SL. IT IS A FANCY LIVING ROOM. COUCH/CHAIRS/WINDOWS/FANCY RUGS ETC...THERE IS A GIANT CHANDELIER HANGING OVER THEM THAT IS MADE OF CARDBOARD. (IMPORTANT THAT IT'S GIANT AND MADE OF CARDBOARD) TV SHOW CREW RUNNING TO AND FRO – CAMERA OPERATORS MOVING CAMERAS – DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANTS YELLING OUT THINGS.

(SET NOTE: ALMOST THE ENTIRE SHOW TAKES PLACE ON THE WHOLE STAGE – THE ONLY CHANGE IS JULIANNA 2'S DRESSING ROOM – WHICH WILL BE A SMALL POOL OF LIGHT DOWNSTAGE RIGHT. WHEN IT SAYS “CENTER STAGE AND STAGE LEFT” THIS TRULY MEANS ALMOST THE ENTIRE STAGE EXCEPT THE SMALL PORTION FOR JULIANNA 2'S DRESSING ROOM.

DIRECTOR:

Ok everyone, this is our first day of shooting in our new home here in studio 37B. So let's make the first one a good one. And let's keep “Whispers of Scandal” the number one Soap Opera of all time! Let's get going. Get the actors on set!

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

Actors on set!

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2:

Actors on set!

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

I already said that.

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2:

Strike that! It was already said!

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

You didn't have to repeat that either.

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2:

Sorry....*Yells out* Never mind! That one was unnecessary!

THE ACTORS THEN ENTER, JULLIANA AND COLE AND TAKE THEIR PLACES ON SET.

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

Yells Number One and Two walking!

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2:

Yells NUMBER ONE....*Assistant one stares at two*
And two....Assistant glares harder. One turns their head away.
...Walking. One snaps his head at two, frustrated.

DIRECTOR:

To the actors. Ok, our first scene today is Julianna and Cole make a plan to elope. Remember, they have to keep it secret. If anyone finds out, it could mean big trouble for Cole. The Sterling family would be horrified if they ever found out Julianna was in love with the Cole the bagger at their local grocery store, and they would stop at nothing to keep her from being with him. So, Cole's life is in danger. Got it?

COLE:

Got it. So, I'm really scared.

DIRECTOR:

Yes. Can you do that?

COLE:

Yes. Give me one second. *He goes through a ridiculous actor warm up of different types of being scared. Julianna just rolls her eyes.*

JULLIANA:

You done yet?

COLE:

Almost. *Does one more scared face.* Ok. I'm good.

DIRECTOR:

Ok everyone! Quiet on the set!

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

Quiet on the set!

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2:

He just said that. Why do you get to repeat things other people say?

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

Cuz that's my job.

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2:

Your job is to repeat what he says?

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

Yes.

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2:

Then what's my job?

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

To get coffee.

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2:

Doesn't seem like a good job.

CLAPPER LOADER:

Whispers of Scandal – Scene one episode 345 take one. *He claps the board.*

DIRECTOR:

ACTION!

SHOW THEME ORGAN MUSIC UP

ANNOUNCER:

In a world where secrets are impossible to keep. It's time for "Whispers of Scandal".

MUSIC FADES.

JULLIANNA:

Oh Cole!

COLE:

AHHHHH!!!!

DIRECTOR:

Cut! What are you doing?

COLE:

Being scared.

DIRECTOR:

You're not that scared. Just kinda scared. Like just trying to stay quiet, not be heard by anyone. Ok?

COLE:

Ok. Got it.

DIRECTOR:

Ok everyone! Quiet on the set!

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

Quiet on the set!

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2:

WHO NEEDS COFFEE??

CLAPPER LOADER:

Whispers of Scandal – Scene one episode 345 take two. *He claps the board.*

DIRECTOR:

ACTION!

SHOW THEME ORGAN MUSIC

ANNOUNCER:

In a world where the truth comes with a cost. It's time for "Whispers of Scandal".

ORGAN MUSIC FADES

JULLIANNA:

Oh Cole!

COLE:

Whispers his line super quiet.

Oh Julianna

He snaps his head around a few times looking around everywhere nervously.

DIRECTOR:

Cut! Ok. Can you maybe split the difference on the scared?

COLE:

Absolutely! No problem.

DIRECTOR:

Ok.

COLE:

Ok!

DIRECTOR:

Ok everyone! Quiet on the set!

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

Quiet on the set! *He puts his hand over Production Assistant Two's mouth before he can yell anything.*

CLAPPER LOADER:

Whispers of Scandal – Scene one episode 345 take three. *He claps the board.*

DIRECTOR:

ACTION!

SHOW THEME ORGAN MUSIC UP

ANNOUNCER:

In a world where liars lie to liars about lying. It's time for "Whispers of Scandal".

ORGAN MUSIC FADES

JULLIANNA:

Oh Cole!

COLE:

Oh Jullianna!

JULLIANNA:

Oh Cole. What are we to do? Our love is forbidden. We will never be together as long as we are under the watchful eye of my family. If only we could...

COLE:

Yes! We should! We totally should do that!

JULLIANNA:

Stops and looks at the Director. She is very Angry. He just stepped on my line!

DIRECTOR:

I know, we can fix it in post. Maybe. Somehow.

JULIANNA:

I can't take this anymore! He is absolutely the worst actor I've ever worked with! Day in day out it's the same thing! He doesn't know the lines! What was he even saying? His line is "Yes my love. That is the only way we will ever find our happiness together". Not "We should totally do that". He's just terrible! How am I supposed to work with this...this....two bit hack!

COLE IS PLAYING WITH THE CLAPBOARD LIKE IT'S A PUPPET MAKING GROWLING SOUNDS AND SNAPPING IT AT THE CLAPPER LOADER WHO IS TRYING TO GET IT BACK.

DIRECTOR:

Look just...we'll get through it. We always do.

JULIANNA:

Look at him! No! That's it. That's all I can take. I have other offers. I can do better than this. I've been doing this show for way too long. It's time for me to move on. Find my destiny! I'm gone. Done. Out. Arrivederci and farewell to you all!

SHE WALKS OFF SET. THERE IS A STUNNED SILENCE. COLE IS STILL PLAYING WITH THE CLAPBOARD.

DIRECTOR:

OK Everyone. It's going to be fine. Just give her some time. We'll just shoot Coles lines on close up for now. BRING IN THE OFF CAMERA READER FOR JULIANNA!

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT ONE:

BRING IN THE OFF CAMERA READER FOR JULIANNA!

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT TWO:

He is holding a coffee carafe and a cup. WHO NEEDS CREAM?

JULIANNA UNDERSTUDY COMES ON SET WITH A SCRIPT AND GETS INTO PLACE. CAMERA MOVES IN FRONT OF COLE.

DIRECTOR:

Ok so we're just going to shoot you saying your lines, and when she gets back, we'll shoot the wide shots then. Ok?

COLE:

OK! *Clapper Loader grabs his clapboard back from him.*

DIRECTOR:

Ok – so just feed him the lines...um...ah....*Snapping fingers trying to recall her name* ...Julianna 2.

JULLIANNA 2:

I have a name.

DIRECTOR:

Don't care. Ok. Here we go. Wait....where's your script?

JULLIANNA 2:

I don't need it. I'm off book.

DIRECTOR:

You're off book?! Wow. Ok. You don't get paid extra for that you know. Alright. Here we go. QUIET ON THE SET!

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

Quiet on the set! *Looks at Production assistant two.*

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2:

What?

CLAPPER LOADER:

Whispers of Scandal – Scene one episode 345 Cole close ups wild lines take one. *He claps the board.*

DIRECTOR:

Aaaaaaand ACTION!

SHOW THEME ORGAN MUSIC UP

ANNOUNCER:

In a world where the rich bleed secrets and the poor have to clean it up with an old sponge that smells like feet. It's time for "Whispers of Scandal".

ORGAN MUSIC FADES

JULLIANNA 2:

Oh Cole!

COLE:

Oh Jullianna!

JULLIANNA 2:

She reads her lines with conviction and sincerity Oh Cole. What are we to do? Our love is forbidden. We will never be together as long as we are under the watchful eye of my family. If only we could elope!

COLE:

He is looking deep into her eyes and has become a wonderful over the top soap opera actor Yes, my love. That is the only way we will ever find our happiness together.

JULLIANNA 2:

Yes. We will go away. Far far away. Away from all of this. This money, and greed, and betrayal and mistrust.

COLE:

The further away we go, the closer you and I will become. We will live out our lives like A bee and a flower. They need each other to survive yet are beautiful in their independence. Symbiotic and yet unique.

JULIANNA 2:

She grabs his hands Cole, I want you to be my husband. Now. Right now. Let's just leave with the clothes on our back.

COLE:

I do.

SHOW THEME ORGAN MUSIC UP. THEY ALL FREEZE. AND MUSIC FADES.

DIRECTOR:

Aaaaand...cut.

EVERYONE ON SET IS IN AWE. SILENCE. LOOK AT EACH OTHER. THEN A SLOW CLAP THAT ESCALATES INTO LOUD APPLAUSE FROM EVERYONE ON SET. COLE AND JULIANNA 2 ARE STILL HOLDING HANDS AND STARING INTO EACH OTHERS' EYES. THIS IS BROKEN UP BY A SCREAM HEARD OFFSTAGE FROM JULIANNA 1. SHE COMES RUNNING ON TO THE STAGE.

JULIANNA 1:

GHOST! GHOST!

DIRECTOR:

What? What are you saying?

JULIANNA 1:

She stops and enunciates sarcastically Ghost. Ghost.

A MURMUR THROUGHOUT EVERYONE ON STAGE

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

GHOST!?!?!?

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2:

So you just get to repeat everything that anybody says? Is that the deal?

DIRECTOR:

What do you mean ghost?

JULLIANNA 1:

I mean ghost. As in *makes ghost sound* It was in my dressing room! I was packing up my things to leave when this ...this thing appeared out of nowhere and said *In spooky voice* “I’m glad you are leaving, and the real star of this show can finally shine”. Then he just disappeared.

DIRECTOR:

Just calm down. I’m sure there’s a perfectly logistical explanation for....

BOOM MIC OPERATOR:

Very surly and scary person AYE! She’s correct! There is a ghost! The Phantom of studio 37B!

DIRECTOR:

What are you talking about?

BOOM MIC OPERATOR:

enunciates sarcastically The Phantom of studio 37B.

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

The Phantom of studio 37B?!?!

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2:

Well, you’re good at your job I’ll give you that.

BOOM MIC OPERATOR:

This studio has been haunted by the Phantom for many years. He appears and disappears as quickly as he appears. And he does terrible things.

COLE:

Like what?

BOOM MIC OPERATOR:

Like tipping things over, unplugging cables, *(Some of the crew gasps)* stealing donuts from Kraft services...

CAMERA OPERATOR 1:

Screams. Catches themselves. Looks around Sorry. I love kraft services.

BOOM MIC OPERATOR:

...and sometimes he appears and just makes threats to destroy any show that's taping in the studio.

JULIANNA 2:

It's true. I've seen him.

COLE:

You have?

JULIANNA 2:

Yes. He came into my room earlier today. Just appeared. Wears a weird mask and a cape, like old costume pieces, his hair is matted, he smells a little, I thought at first he was one of the grips.

GRIP:

Hey!

JULIANNA 2:

He also has a mask covering part of his face. He told me that he thought I was a great actor, that I should be the star of the show. Sorry. *To Julianna 1.*

JULIANNA 1:

Pffft.

*THE ACTORS WHO PLAY BEATRICE STERLING AND CAPTAIN STERLING
ENTER.*

BEATRICE:

What is going on! I have been in my dressing room for hours! How long does it take to film this stupid scene?

CAPTAIN:

Quite! My tangerines are missing and I'm down to eating green M & M's. Which is a complete violation of my contract.

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

There's a ghost!

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2:

Coffee?

BEATRICE:

Ghost? What in the world are you talking about?

BOOM MIC OPERATOR:

Ay! The phantom has appeared again.

CAPTAIN:

Rattled The Phantom! He's back?

BEATRICE:

Oh that nasty man. Such a bore. Always sticking his nose in the affairs of our art.

DIRECTOR:

Wait – you know about this Phantom?

BEATRICE:

Oh heavens, yes. I've done hundreds of shows in this studio over the years. He's meddled quite a bit in many of them.

CAPTAIN:

That's who stole my tangerines!

BEATRICE:

Oh do shut up about your tangerines. And phantom shmantom. Let's get a move on with this shall we? We have other more important scenes to shoot and I will not stand by another second.

DIRECTOR:

Yes. Of course. Let's set up for the next scene everyone!

JULIANNA 1:

Wait! We haven't finished shooting my scene!

DIRECTOR:

Yes. Well. I tell you what, we got the closeups of Cole, we'll do the wideshots and your close ups tomorrow.

JULIANNA:

Fine. I'll just be in my dressing room. Alone. Waiting for that lunatic to come back.

DIRECTOR:

We'll put someone outside your door. *Points at grip and motions for them to go with her. They are reluctant.*

GRIP:

Who, me? I have to watch for the phantom?

DIRECTOR POINTS AGAIN. HE RELENTS. JULIANNA 1 AND GRIP LEAVE THE STAGE.

DIRECTOR:

ALL ACTORS TO THE STAGE FOR SCENE 2!

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

ALL ACTORS TO THE STAGE FOR SCENE 2.

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2:

You are a ridiculous person.

THE OTHER ACTORS PLAYING MARCUS STERLING, ELENA STERLING, ABIGAIL AND DR. ARIS THORNE ENTER WHILE EVERYONE IS SETTING UP FOR THE NEXT SHOT, THE PRODUCER AND SPONSOR EXECUTIVES STEP FORWARD TO THE DIRECTOR. THEY HAVE BEEN SITTING ON CHAIRS WATCHING THE ENTIRE TIME.

PRODUCER:

Excuse me. We need to talk.

DIRECTOR:

What about?

PRODUCER:

Well as Producer of this show, I feel, well we feel, *indicates the sponsor executives* That perhaps we should consider a change in...well...direction.

DIRECTOR:

A change in direction? What do you mean?

PRODUCER:

Well we all saw it didn't we? The young lady who came in to read for Julianna. She was quite extraordinary don't you think?

EXECUTIVE 1:

Quite extraordinary.

EXECUTIVE 2:

Exquisitely extraordinary.

DIRECTOR:

I'm sorry, who are you?

PRODUCER:

These are the executives from our sponsor, Wheat and Meat Treats.

EXECUTIVE 1:

Sings Breakfast lunch or dinner....

EXECUTIVE 2:

Sings Wheat and Meat Treats are a winner!

EXECUTIVE 1:

In fast disclaimer voice Wheat and Meat treats are not gluten free, dairy free, or peanut free, and are made with 100 percent meat.

EXECUTIVE 2:

Source of meat can vary by package.

DIRECTOR:

Are you asking me to replace the Julianna actor with the reader?

PRODUCER:

We just feel like there was a connection between her and Cole. Something we haven't every seen before in this show.

EXECUTIVE 1:

Not ever.

EXECUTIVE 2:

Never ever.

DIRECTOR:

I agree but...Telling the current Julianna will require a very brave person. And a suit of armor. And maybe a hazmat suit.

PRODUCER:

Well that is your job isn't it? And I thought she just quit.

DIRECTOR:

Yeah, but she quits every week. She'll be back.

EXECUTIVE 1:

Nevertheless. She needs to go. And it would be...let's say...very appreciated by us.

EXECUTIVE 1:

The sponsors.

EXECUTIVE 2:

Who pay for all of this.

EXECUTIVE 1:

Yes. ALL of it. *Points at Director.*

DIRECTOR:

Sighs Fine. Just, let me shoot this scene and then, I'll tell her.

PRODUCER:

And there's one more thing.

EXECUTIVE 1:

Yes just a small thing.

EXECUTIVE 2:

We would like the characters to be eating Wheat and Meat Treats.

EXECUTIVE 1:

Yes. And only that.

EXECUTIVE 2:

We should have many boxes of it in every scene I would say.

EXECUTIVE 1:

And the actors should be eating them.

EXECUTIVE 2:

And enjoying them. *Hands the Director boxes of Wheat and Meat Treats.*

DIRECTOR:

Allright...

PRODUCER:

Thank you so much. You're doing such a good job here.

DIRECTOR TAKES THE BOXES. PRODUCER AND EXECUTIVES RETREAT TO THEIR CHAIRS. DIRECTOR HANDS THE BOXES TO PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1.

DIRECTOR:

Put these around the set. Tell the actors they need to be eating them.

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

Hands boxes to Production assistant 2 Put these around the set. Tell the actors they need to be eating them.

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2 TAKES BOXES AND STARTS PUTTING BOXES OF WHEAT AND MEAT TREATS AROUND THE SET, THEN GOES TO THE ACTORS AND IS TELLING THEM THEY NEED TO EAT THEM DURING THE SCENE WHILE DIRECTOR IS CALLING OUT THE NEXT LINE.

DIRECTOR:

OK everyone. This is scene 2. This is the scene where Julianna's brother Marcus, who has long been thought dead, has come back, and is telling his parents that he is indeed alive, and Marcus finds out his fiancé Elena, thinking he was dead, has married his father Captain Sterling, who has recently divorced his mother, Beatrice. *Director points at each actor as he explains the storyline.*

DIRECTOR:

Ok everyone! Quiet on the set!

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

Quiet on the set!

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2:

Last chance for coffee!

CLAPPER LOADER:

Whispers of Scandal – Scene two episode 345 take one. *He claps the board.*

DIRECTOR:

Aaaaaand....ACTION!

SHOW THEME ORGAN MUSIC UP

ANNOUNCER:

In a world where really terrible people do really terrible things making you feel like your life isn't so bad after all. It's time for "Whispers of Scandal".

ORGAN MUSIC FADES

ACTORS ARE SITTING AROUND DOING STUFF. DOOR BURSTS OPEN. IN COMES MARCUS. HE RUNS UP AND HUGS EACH CHARACTER AS HE SAYS THEIR NAME.

MARCUS:

Mom! Dad! Abbigail! Dr. Aris Thorne! OH and Elena! Love of my life!

ELENA:

Who...are you?

MARCUS:

It's me! Marcus!

BEATRICE:

Impossible! Marcus is dead.

MARCUS:

It's me I tell you! I'm alive! After the plane crashed, I somehow miraculously survived, but I was hit in the head. And I've had amnesia the last three years!

EXECUTIVE 1 AND 2 AND PRODUCER:

All clear their throats very loudly. The actors look at each other, then look at the boxes of Wheat and Meat Treats. They each grab one and pull out one and start eating while they are acting.

ELENA:

But you don't look like Marcus.

MARCUS:

I had plastic surgery! What do you think?

CAPTAIN:

If you really are Marcus then, what's my real name?

MARCUS:

Your real name is Captain. Your parents named you that. Your sisters is named Tennille.

CAPTAIN:

Marcus! It is you!

BEATRICE:

Wait a minute. How do we know you had amnesia?

CAPTAIN:

We could have the Dr. examine him.

DR. ARIS THORNE:

Yes of course. Glad to be of service. Now, let me take a look. *Goes up to Marcus and looks him over, touches his face and head* Uh huh...uh huh....yes...I see....Hmmm....Yes, I can absolutely state this man had amnesia.

MARCUS:

You see? Mother! It's me! And Elena, now we can finally get married.

ELENA:

Oh. Yes. Well about that. You see, things have changed Marcus.

ABBIGAIL:

Oh this is going to be good. *She sits with a box of Wheat and Meat Treats and begins eating them.*

MARCUS:

What is it dearest Elena? You can tell me. You can tell me anything.

ELENA:

I thought you were dead Marcus. And so Imoved on.

MARCUS:

I see. And who is the lucky man?

ABBIGAIL:

Here we go! Buckle up!

ELENA:

I married...the Captain.

MARCUS:

You married my father?!?!? How can that be? He's married to my mother! Also, Gross!

BEATRICE:

Your father divorced me 2 years ago in favor of that trollop.

ELENA:

Be careful Beatrice, I am the only thing standing in the way of you staying in the family money.

MARCUS:

This is unbelievable. Wait, *Looks at Beatrice* You still live here?

BEATRICE:

Well I had to. Nowhere to go. Besides, I like it here. And the money.

MARCUS:

Well that's ...unhealthy. You are all crazy!

DR. ARIS THORNE:

In my professional medical opinion, you are correct.

ABBIGAIL:
PREACH!

MARCUS:
Do you live here too?

DR. ARIS THORNE:
Yes well, my gambling addiction forced me to sell confidential patient information to the highest bidder. Many people want me dead. The Sterling's were good enough to grant me sanctuary.

ABBIGAIL:
It just gets better and better doesn't it?

MARCUS:
But Elena...What about our son?

SHOW THEME ORGAN MUSIC UP. THEY ALL FREEZE.

DIRECTOR:
Aaaaaand Cut! Nice job everyone! Ok get the cast of the commercial out here and let's shoot it!

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:
Nice job everyone! Ok get the cast of the commercial out here and let's shoot it!

A KITCHEN TABLE AND FOUR CHAIRS COMES OUT CARRIED BY CREW MEMBERS AND IS SET CENTER STAGE. MOM, DAD, THREE KIDS AND GRANDMA SIT AT THE TABLE. THEY ARE ALL LOOKING SAD AND DEJECTED. CAMERAS AND WHOLE CREW GET IN PLACE.

DIRECTOR:
AAAND ACTION!

MOM:

Sad Every day, your family gives you their whole heart. They deserve a treat crafted from the very best of nature.

A CHEF ENTERS HOLDING INGREDIENTS

CHEF:

Voila!

DAD:

Hey who are you?

KID 1:

Are you Santa?

CHEF:

Hahahahaha! There is no such thing as Santa!

KID 1:

What?

CHEF:

Made with real non-animal specified meat, golden stalks of sun-ripened whole wheat. We slam 'em together and ...Voila! Wheat and Meat Treats!

SHE SLAMS THE MEAT AND WHEAT TOGETHER AND PUTS ON A PLATE AND HANDS IT TO MOM. SHE FEEDS A WHEAT AND MEAT TREAT TO THE DAD, PUTS IT IN HIS MOUTH.

DAD:

MMMMMM!!! Crunch and meaty!

MOM:

Good job! *Rubs his head.*

DAD:

Awww...Thanks honey.

MOM:

Finally!

CHEF:

The taste your family craves, with the honest ingredients you trust.

MOM:

There's no reason to eat anything else!

She feeds a Wheat and Meat Treat to kid one, puts it in their mouth.

MOM:

Meat & Wheat Treats. The perfect harmony of wholesome nutrition and mouth-watering flavor. *Reads box* "We start with 100% real, protein-packed meat".

KID 2:

REAL Meat mom?

MOM:

Yes! Says right here! "We learned our lesson. We won't do that again".

CHEF:

I know that's right!

Everyone laughs. Mom holds the treat in the air.

MOM:

Sit!

Kid 2 sits. Mom feeds a Wheat and Meat Treat to them.

MOM:

Instant fuel for the day in an oven-toasted, fiber-rich whole wheat for a crunch they can't resist.

Mom feeds a Wheat and Meat Treat to kid 3, puts it in their mouth.

KID 3:

And my digestion is so much better! I can feel everything moving already!

MOM:

No fillers. No artificial preservatives. Just pure, simple goodness.

Mom offers a Wheat and Meat Treat to Grandma.

GRANDMA:

Get that away from me!

MOM:

But mom! It's good for you!

GRANDMA:

That's what they said about seat belts. You're not tying me up inside a metal box on wheels.

Everyone laughs.

KID 3:

I have to go to the bathroom. *Runs out and screams* THANKS MOM!

MOM:

You're welcome pumpkin!

CHEF:

Voila!

JINGLE SUNG BY SHOW ANNOUNCER

SHOW ANNOUNCER:

Sings Breakfast lunch and for dinner.... Wheat and Meat Treats are a winner!

GRANDMA:

Stop that infernal singing!

Everyone laughs.

SHOW ANNOUNCER:

In fast disclaimer voice Wheat and Meat treats are not gluten free, dairy free, or peanut free, and are made with 100 percent meat. Source of meat can vary by package.

DIRECTOR:

Aaaaaand Cut! Nice job everyone! Let's break for lunch!

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

Nice Job everyone! Let's break for lunch!

SCARY ORGAN MUSIC UP. LIGHTS FADE ON SET CS AND SL AND COME UP ON JULIANNA 2 IN HER DRESSING ROOM SR READING A SCRIPT. MUSIC FADES. THE DOOR TO HER ROOM OPENS AND IN COMES THE PHANTOM.

PHANTOM:

Hello.

JULIANNA 2:

Gasps Oh! It's you again. What do you want?

PHANTOM:

You were tremendous today.

JULIANNA 2:

Thank you.

PHANTOM:

The role should be yours. You're a by far and away a better actor than her.

JULIANNA 2:

Oh I don't know. Just doing my best. Is it true what they are saying? That you are a ghost? The Phantom of Studio 37B?

PHANTOM:

I am whatever people want to believe. It makes no difference to me what they think I am or what I am not.

JULIANNA 2:

What if they think you're a man-eating pumpkin?

PHANTOM:

What? That's not a real thing. Wait...is it? I mean, sure. If that's...I'm just saying I don't care about what people think.

JULIANNA 2:

Got it.

CASE HAS COME UP TO HER DOOR. HE IS ABOUT TO KNOCK WHEN HE STOPS, HEARING THE VOICES ON THE OTHER SIDE, HE PUTS HIS EAR TO THE DOOR AND LISTENS.

PHANTOM:

Except you. I care what you think.

JULIANNA 2:

Why do you care about me?

PHANTOM:

"If I could write the beauty of your eyes And in fresh numbers number all your graces, The age to come would say...

JULIANNA 2:

...'This poet lies; Such heavenly touches ne'er touch'd earthly faces.'" Shakespeare Sonnet 17,

PHANTOM:

You see? You are exquisite. Heart, mind and soul.

JULIANNA 2:

Ok. Thanks. You realize that all of this is super creepy. Do you like, live here? In the studio?

PHANTOM:

I do.

JULIANNA 2:

Why?

PHANTOM:

To hide from a judgmental world. Years ago, I was once a great actor, like you. I was in the hit show “Breaking Brad”.

JULIANNA 2:

Wait...wasn't that the show about the guy who was an undercover cop and a really good breakdancer?

PHANTOM:

Yes. Brad. I played Brad.

JULIANNA 2:

Oh...yeah...that show....happened.

PHANTOM:

Want to see my moves? *(Starts to beat box and move, but Julianna 2 shuts him down)*

JULIANNA 2:

NO! No no...I'm good.

PHANTOM:

Anyway, we filmed the show here, in Studio 37 B. I was let go from the show after....the accident...

TRANSITION MUSIC – THE THEME TO “BREAKING BRAD”. LIGHTS FADE ON JULIANNA 2 DRESSING ROOM AND UP ON CENTER STAGE AND SL. THE SET OF WHISPERS OF SCANDAL HAS BEEN REPLACED WITH THE SET OF BREAKING BRAD. THIS WILL REQUIRE RAISING THE CHANDELIER UP SOMEHOW. THE SET IS A POLICE DEPARTMENT SEARGENTS OFFICE – A DESK AND OTHER PIECES OF THE OFFICE – DOWNSTAGE CENTER. THE SET OF THE “GANG’S HIDEOUT” IS BEHIND THIS SET CENTER STAGE AND DIMLY LIT WITH ALL THE ACTORS IN THAT SCENE IN TABLEAU.

PHANTOM WALKS FROM JULIANNA DRESSING ROOM TO THE CENTER STAGE POLICE OFFICE SET. HE TAKES OFF CAPE AND MASK AND LEAVES IN JULIANNA 2 DRESSING ROOM BEFORE LEAVING. HIS UNDERDRESS IS HIS UNDERCOVER COP COSTUME FROM THE SHOW. HE ALSO PUTS ON A FULL MUSTACHE. HE SITS IN CHAIR NEXT TO DESK AND PUTS HIS FEET UP ON DESK. SITTING AT THE DESK IS HIS SEARGENT AND STANDING NEXT TO THE DESK IS HIS PARTNER. ON THE SET ARE THE “BREAKING BRAD” DIRECTOR, BOOM MIC OPERATOR, CAMERA OPERATORS, CLAPBOARD LOADER AND GRIP. WHILE BRAD WALKS OVER AND THE SCENE TRANSITION THE THEME SONG TO BREAKING BRAD PLAYS/IS SUNG.

Breaking Brad theme song

*Neon lights on wet concrete
Trouble walking down the street
Sleek black sedan cuts through the dark
Homicide leaves its mark
Justice wakes up wide awake
Rules are made to bend and break*

*You were born to Break – yeah you were born to break – yeah you were born to be
Breaking Brad.*

MUSIC ENDS

BB DIRECTOR:

Ok everyone Quiet on set! We’re going to shoot this. Places!

BB PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

Ok everyone Quiet on set! We’re going to shoot this. Places!

BB PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2:

Oooh! That’s really good! You are so good at that!

BB PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

Oh thank you!

BB PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2:

You think I could try?

BB PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

Of course! Be my guest!

BB PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2

Ok everyone Quiet on set! We're going to shoot this. Places!

BB PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

Very nice! But don't forget to twirl your hand.

BB PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2:

Oh yes! Of course!

BB PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

Try it again.

BB PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2:

Ok everyone Quiet on set! We're going to shoot this. Places!

BB PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

Applauds Very good! Great wrist work! You'll be 1st Production Assistant in no time!

BB PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2:

Repeats what they just did Ok everyone Quiet on set! We're going to shoot this. Places!

BB DIRECTOR:

OK ENOUGH! Just stop. Everybody is in places.

BB PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

Aside to PA 2 Somebody dropped their toast butter side down this morning.

BB PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2:

OH! I hate that! But I still eat it. Because you know nothing worse can happen to you the rest of the day.

CLAPPER LOADER:

Breaking Brad Episode 15, Scene 1, Take one. *Claps the clapper*

BB DIRECTOR:

Aaaand Action!

SEARGENT:

Brad I don't feel good sending you in undercover in this case. This gang is very dangerous.

BRAD/PHANTOM:

Danger is my middle name.

BRAD'S PARTNER:

It is? Huh. You told me it was "Chaos".

BRAD/PHANTOM:

It was. I had it legally changed.

BRAD'S PARTNER:

OH! That's super cool! You're the coolest Brad.

SEARGENT:

Brad, I just don't feel right about this one. I got a gut feeling. This ain't gonna end well.

BRAD/PHANTOM:

Don't you worry about me. I got all the moves. *Hits play on a boombox on the desk playing Breakdance music. He gets up and starts doing "moves" until he takes his partners wallet away from him.*

GOTCHA GOOD!

BRAD'S PARTNER:

WHOA! Didn't see that coming! You are the best Brad!

SEARGENT:

I gotta admit, you're the best Brad. Smooth.

BRAD/PHANTOM:

Smooth is my middle name.

BRAD'S PARTNER:

It is? I thought it was Danger?

BRAD/PHANTOM:

I just changed it.

BRAD'S PARTNER:

Oh! Then is "Danger" available? Can I take it?

BRAD/PHANTOM:

Depends. Are you going undercover with me?

BRAD'S PARTNER:

Me? Oh no. No no no no no no, Nope. I gotta thing.

BRAD/PHANTOM:

Then I think you should go with "Safe".

BRAD'S PARTNER:

Ok!

SEARGENT:

Ok Brad. I'll green light this. But don't make me regret it. You come back alive, you hear? Stay safe.

BRAD/PHANTOM:

Safe is my middle name.

BRAD'S PARTNER:

Dangit

SCENE CHANGES. THE OFFICE COMES OFF SET REVEALING THE GANG HIDEOUT SET BEHIND IT. THE SET IS BROKEN DOWN FURNITURE/CANS EVERYWHERE/MAYBE A GRAFFITI WALL THAT SAYS "NEON VIPERS". LIGHTS COME UP FULL AND THE ACTORS COME OUT OF TABLEAU. BRAD WALKS FROM THE PREVIOUS SET INTO THIS SET TAKING BOOM BOX WITH HIM. SEARGENT AND PARTNER LEAVE STAGE. BREAKDANCE MUSIC PLAYS. MUSIC FADES.

LINDA:

So....You want to be a Neon Viper?

BRAD/PHANTOM:

Depends. I'm not sure you guys are tough enough for me.

They all Laugh

LINDA:

Listen here cupcake, we are the toughest gang in the whole city. Nobody is tougher than us. This here is Cyber, she knows everything there is to know about computers and gizmo's and gadgets. Show 'em what you got Cyber.

CYBER:

Using a giant old timey calculator I take the sum of your dumb, divide that by the difference in my magnificence, and the end quotient is E equals MC square to the head! Make a move with the calculator swinging it at Brad's head and stops just short of hitting him. He doesn't flinch. She smiles. Everyone laughs.

LINDA:

This is Laser.

LASER:

He has a laser that cats would chase and starts moving the laser all around the room Hey what's this? Huh? Want to get it? Yeah you know you do! Get it! C'mon get it! Brad doesn't move.

LINDA:

I ain't never seen anyone resist that before.

LASER IS STILL MOVING THE LASER AROUND. EVERYBODY IS TRYING TO RESIST BUT FINALLY CAN'T AND THEY ALL START CHASING THE LASER AROUND THE ROOM.

LINDA:

LASER! Turn it off!

LASER:

Sure thing boss.

LINDA:

This is Short Circuit. She's crazy. Doesn't take much to set her off.

BRAD/PHANTOM:

I don't know. Seems like they're ok.

SHORT CIRCUIT:

Losing it gets right up in Brad's face You talking to me? You talking to me? You talking to me? Well then who else are you talking to? You talking to me? Well, I'm the only one here. Who do you think you're talking to? Oh, yeah? Huh? Okay. Huh?

BRAD/PHANTOM:

Doesn't flinch Yes. I am talking to you.

SHORT CIRCUIT:

Backs away. Calms down Yeah ok. That's what I figured.

SPANDEX:

Gets up and walk to Brad. Breathing heavily I'm spandex.

BRAD/PHANTOM:

What's your talent?

SPANDEX:

Breathing heavily I...I uh....Sorry...hang on. Clothes so tight. Hard to breath. She has to take a knee. Then works her way back to her chair.

LINDA:

Yeah we're working on that one. Then over here we have Video. Video can remember everything. Her brain records everything. She has a memory like an elephant.

VIDEO:

Re-creating exactly how Steve/Linda said and did it Then over here we have Video. Video can remember everything. Her brain records everything. She has a memory like an elephant.

See? Nothin' gets by me see? Nothin.

BRAD/PHANTOM:

Ok how about this?

TURNS ON BOOMBOX A BREAKDANCE SONG PLAYS. BRAD DOES SOME KIND OF BREAKDANCE MOVES THEN POINTS AT VIDEO. VIDEO TRIES IN VAIN TO RE-CREATE THE DANCE BUT FAILS.

BRAD/PHANTOM:

Gotcha Good!

LINDA:

Pretty good cupcake. You passed all the tests. Congratulations, you're a Neon Viper.

BRAD/PHANTOM:

Wait. What's your name?

LINDA:

Steve (Or Linda). And what's yours?

BRAD/PHANTOM:

Brad. Breaking Brad.

LINDA:

Ok Breaking Brad. We got a job today. We're robbing the city bank!

BREAKDANCE MUSIC PLAYS. THE GANG HIDEOUT SET LEAVES STAGE AND A BANK COMES ON STAGE. THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THE BANK. A BANK TELLER BEHIND A BANK WINDOW. THE GANG ENTERS THE SCENE. BRAD HAS HIS BOOMBOX.

LINDA:

This is a stickup!

EVERYONE IN THE BANK GETS SCARED/GASPS

Everyone get down!

BRAD/PHANTOM:

That's a good idea!

HE HITS PLAY ON THE BOOMBOX AND BREAKDANCE MUSIC PLAYS. BRAD DOES BREAKDANCE MOVES ALL OVER THE STAGE TAKING OUT ALL THE GANG MEMBERS WITH PUNCHES AND KICKS.

BRAD/PHANTOM:

GOTCHA GOOD!

EVERYONE CLAPS AND CHEERS. A REPORTER AND CAMERA MAN RUN IN.

REPORTER:

This is Wanda Woodward Cronkite reporting live and on the scene of a thwarted bank heist by the notorious Neon Vipers. The gang was taken down by a man with the most wicked breakdancing moves this reporter has ever seen! Sir! Excuse me! Our viewers would love to know who you are!

BRAD/PHANTOM:

The name is Brad. Breaking Brad.

THEME SONG IS SUNG AGAIN AS EVERYBODY FREEZES. AT END OF SONG THERE IS A LOUD BELL.

BB DIRECTOR:

And cut! That's a take! Nice Job everyone!

BB PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

Nice Job everyone!

BB PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2:

You are like the Rembrandt of repeating.

ALL THE ACTORS AND CREW ARE CLAPPING AND CONGRATULATING BRAD. THE CLAPBOARD LOADER IS CLAPPING WITH THE CLAPBOARD.

BB DIRECTOR:

Hey everyone! Guess who's birthday it is?

THEY BRING OUT A BIRTHDAY CAKE. AND EVERYBODY SINGS HAPPY BIRTHDAY. HE LEANS OVER TO BLOW OUT THE CANDLES. AS HE BLOWS THERE IS A BLACKOUT AND IN THE DARK WE HEAR THE PHANTOM SCREAM. LIGHTS COME UP ON JULIANNA'S DRESSING ROOM SR WHERE HER AND THE PHANTOM WERE BEFORE THE FLASHBACK.

PHANTOM:

I got to close to those candles when I blew out that cake. And I became horribly disfigured. It's why I wear this mask. Want to see?

JULIANNA 2:

...um yeah...Weirdly I kinda do.

PHANTOM:

Takes off his mask dramatically, revealing a mustache on only one side. I have only half a mustache.

JULIANNA 2:

Wait...You mean you can only grow a mustache on the one side?

PHANTOM:

Yes! Hideous! Most horrible!

JULIANNA 2:

Why don't you just shave off the other side and not have a mustache?

PHANTOM:

Impossible! So, after the accident, I donned this mask. And I hid away from society in the basement of Studio 37 B. But you! You can still have it all! And I will see to it! I will teach you everything I know about acting!

JULIANNA 2:

Ok...

PHANTOM:

And about Breakdancing!

JULIANNA 2:

Hard pass. Anyway, what's the point? She won't quit. And they aren't going to fire her. She's the star of the show.

PHANTOM:

Do not worry! I will see to it that she never returns!

JULIANNA 2:

You seem a little too invested. I think you should probably just let this go.

PHANTOM:

I will not! You will see! *He turns to leave*

JULIANNA 2:

Wait! What's your name?

PHANTOM:

Eric.

JULIANNA 2:

Huh. I was expecting Maximillian or Apollo or something. Eric is kinda boring.

PHANTOM:

I'm off!

*HE OPENS THE DOOR AND HITS COLE. PHANTOM RUNS OFF STAGE.
COLE ENTERS DRESSING ROOM.*

COLE:

Hey are you ok?

JULIANNA 2:

Yeah I'm fine. That was the Phantom.

COLE:

I know I heard it all. He's a little eccentric.

JULIANNA 2:

Yeah...I'm worried about him. Wait! I have an idea! You get back on set for filming. I have to go find him before he does something rash!

SOAP OPERA ORGAN MUSIC PLAYS. LIGHTS FADE OUT ON DRESSING ROOM AND COME UP CENTER STAGE AND SL WHERE THE WEDDING SCENE HAS BEEN SET. THE GIANT CARDBOARD CHANDELIER IS BACK IN PLACE. THERE IS AN ALTER AND DECORATIONS AND ALL ACTORS ARE ON STAGE AS WELL AS ALL OF THE SHOW CREW. JULIANNA 1 AND COLE ARE STANDING IN FRONT OF A MINISTER. THE REST OF THE WEDDING GUESTS/PARTY ARE ALL SITTING. MUSIC FADES.

DIRECTOR:

OK everyone, we're about to shoot the big wedding scene! Let's get everybody to places!

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

EVERYBODY GET TO PLACES!

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2:

Mocking assistant 1 EVERYBODY GET TO PLACES!

EXECUTIVE 1:

HOLD ON!

DIRECTOR:

What now?

EXECUTIVE 2:

We have a demand.

EXECUTIVE 1:

Idea.

EXECUTIVE 2:

Yes that's the word I meant. Idea.

PRODUCER:

Well we love ideas! Especially if it means more money!

EXECUTIVE 1:

Well since we have this really nice wedding scene all set up....we think that....well...

EXECUTIVE 2:

We feel like this is an opportunity.

EXECUTIVE 1:

Yes that's the word.

PRODUCER:

To sell some more Wheat and Meat Treats?

EXECUTIVE 2:

Precisely!

EXECUTIVE 1:

Correct – a – mondo!

PRODUCER:

Well I just so happen to have a script. *She hands out scripts to certain actors.*

DIRECTOR:

Ok we ready? Stand by! AndACTION!

SHOW THEME ORGAN MUSIC UP

ANNOUNCER:

Throwing big parties. Jumping into the pool from the balcony. Everyone swimming in a champagne sea. There are no rules when you show up here. This is why we can't have nice things, darling. It's time for "Whispers of Scandal".

MUSIC FADES.

MINISTER:

Do you, Cole, take Julianna to be your lawful wedded wife?

QUINN:

Stands up and walks downstage – direct address to the camera

There's nothing worse than going to a wedding. Hi I'm Quinn Quackenbush the third.

WEDDING GUEST 1:

Steps forward Hey aren't you Sargent Crank from the TV Show Breaking Brad?

QUINN:

I was! But now I schill products to pay my mortgageAnyway....Weddings are the worst.

WEDDING GUEST 2:

Steps forward Especially when it's the wedding of a third cousin.

WEDDING GUEST 3:

Steps forward But your mom insists you were best friends as kids.

WEDDING GUEST 4:

Steps forward But she's wrong. I couldn't stand her. She always smelled like vicks vapor rub.

WEDDING GUEST 5:

Steps forward And you had to go to her bachelorette party. And we had to dress like Hobbits. Because she loves Lord of the Rings.

WEDDING GUEST 6:

Steps forward And she tried to talk you into investing in her ponzi scheme. I invested everything I have!

QUINN:

Wait...that's a Ponzi scheme? I'm going to have to make some calls!
Anyway...All you do at a wedding is think about how hungry you are and what they are going to serve for dinner.

WEDDING GUEST 7:

Steps forward I AM SO HUNGRY! PLEASE TELL ME THEY DIDN'T WRITE THEIR OWN VOWS!

QUINN:

Of course you would think that just having a pocket full of Meat and Wheat Treats would be the answer.

WEDDING GUEST 8:

Steps forward But they're WAY to crunchy! *Takes one out and eats. We hear SFX of very loud crunching for a very long time as "8" sheepishly chews and everyone looks at them with disdain.*

CHEF ENTERS WITH INGREDIANTS AGAIN

CHEF:

VOILA!

QUINN:

Hey look! It's the Wheat and Meat Treats Chef!

KID 1:

You ruined Christmas.

CHEF:

Introducing new Wheat and Meat Treats Jerky!

QUINN:

Wheat and Meat Treats Jerky?

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2:

To production assistant 1 Hey! He repeats things just like you!

CHEF:

Just like regular Meat and Wheat treats, they're made with real non-animal specified meat, golden stalks of sun-ripened whole wheat. We slam 'em together and we wait three weeks until they're super congealed and chewy ...Voila! Wheat and Meat Treats Jerky!

SHE SLAMS THE MEAT AND WHEAT TOGETHER. HANDS A BOX TO QUINN WHO TAKES ON OUT AN PASSES THE BOX AROUND TO WEDDING GUESTS 1 THOUGH 12.. EVERYBODY PUTS ONE IN THEIR MOUTH. EVERYBODY IS CHEWING WITH DIFFICULTY.

WEDDING GUEST 9:

Hey! I'm not making any noise! And now I don't care that her dad is going to sing sunrise sunset!

WEDDING GUEST 10:

And I'm burning calories with all this chewing! My jaw muscles are going to be so shredded!

WEDDING GUEST 11:

Well, I can cancel that dentist appointment! *Removes a tooth from their mouth*
That pesky rotten tooth just came right out!

WEDDING GUEST 12:

And any second now I'll have an excuse to leave and go to the bathroom!....Which is right now! *Runs off stage*

QUINN:

New Wheat and Meat Treats Jerky! Always keep a box in your car! They don't have an expiration date!

WEDDING GUESTS 1 THROUGH 12:

Singing Breakfast lunch and for dinner.... Wheat and Meat Treats are a winner!

GRANDMA:

Stop that infernal singing!

Everyone laughs.

SHOW ANNOUNCER:

In fast disclaimer voice Wheat and Meat Treats Jerky are not gluten free, dairy free, or peanut free, and are made with 100 percent meat. Source of meat can vary by package.

EVERYONE GOES BACK TO THEIR SEATS AT THE WEDDING AND THE WEDDING SCENE BEGINS.

MINISTER:

Do you, Cole, take Julianna to be your lawful wedded wife?

COLE:

I do.

MINISTER:

And do you Julianna take Cole to be your lawful wedded husband?

JULIANNA 1:

I do.

MINISTER:

If anyone here present knows of any reason why these two persons should not be lawfully joined together, speak now or forever hold your peace.

BEATRICE:

STOP! Stop this. I Speak now!

JULIANNA 1:

Mother! What are you doing?

BEATRICE:

I'm so sorry Julianna, but I can't let this go on for another minute. You must know the truth.

ABIGAIL:

OH! OH! OH! HERE WE GO!!

CAPTAIN:

Beatrice, I don't think now is the time...

BEATRICE:

Oh do shut up.

ELENA:

Don't talk to my husband like that!

MARCUS:

I still can't believe you married my dad.

ELENA:

I thought you were dead Marcus! We all did! I had to get on with my life!

MARCUS:

But maybe we could just start over.

ELENA:

It's too late Marcus. Besides, the plastic surgery...it wasn't great.

DR. THORNE:

I could fix that.

ABIGAIL:

Dr. Thorne, You're a plastic Surgeon?

DR. THORNE:

I used to be. But then I ran into some issues with the law. Something about needing a license. And so, to escape, I performed on myself, transforming me into this.

ELENA:

Yeah that ain't great work either.

MONIQUE:

WAIT! Did you used to be Dr. Torn?

DR. THORNE:

Alas. My secret revealed. That is my past.

ABIGAIL:

Wait you changed your name from Thorne to Torn? Nice effort.

MONIQUE:

You...YOU!!! ! I am Monique Dewinter! I am your long-lost daughter! And you are my father!

DR. THORNE:

MONIQUE!

MONIQUE:

FATHER!

THEY EMBRACE

MONIQUE:

Ever since you disappeared, I have been looking for you! I never gave up hope. And to think I find you at the wedding of my former tennis instructor Cole!

JULIANNA 1:

You play Tennis?

COLE:

I did. But I had to quit when I developed tennis elbow. That's when I got the job at the Red Owl and met you while bagging your groceries.

ABIGAIL:

Oh come on! Red Owl still exists? This is just twist after twist!

LAWYER:

I have another one for you Abigail.

ABIGAIL:

How do you know my name? Wait...Who are you?

LAWYER:

I am the lawyer for Evangline St. Clair. And I was sent here to give you this.
Hands her and envelope.

ABIGAIL:

Wait, who is Evangeline St. Clair?

EVANGILINE:

I am. *She stands*

ABIGAIL:

Do I know you? Why are you here?

EVANGILINE:

If you open that letter, you will see why.

ABIGAIL:

Wait. Did you hire a lawyer just to hand this letter to me?

LAWYER:

Yes. That is my area of study. Handing letters to people. Top of my class, Harvard. Summa Cum Letter.

SHE OPENS LETTER

ABIGAIL:

To Abigail Blake. This is to inform you that you are now the majority owner of Wheat and Meat Treats.

THE SPONSORS PUMP THEIR FISTS OFF CAMERA AND HIGH FIVE

ABIGAIL:

Wait – how is this possible?

EVANGILINE:

I own the company. And you are my sole surviving relative. And I only have a short time to live. In fact...*She falls and dies.*

ABIGAIL:

Oh! Ok. *Turns to everyone and yanks off her maid apron* Well, I quit!

JULIANNA:

Will everybody stop revealing crazy things for just two minutes? Mother why did you stop our wedding? Is it because he's just a lowly grocery bagger and not good enough for you?

BEATRICE:

No dear. ...You can't marry him because....he is your half brother.

JULIANNA 1:

WHAT?!?!?

COLE:

WHAT?!?!?

JULIANNA 1:

I just said that.

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2:

To PA 1 See? That's annoying.

DIRECTOR:

To PA 1 – SHHHHHH!!!

COLE:

Then who is his father?

ORGAN MUSIC UP. EVERYBODY LOOKS AROUND AT EACH OTHER

ANNOUNCER;

Who is Cole's father? Tune in tomorrow to Whispers of Scandal!

LAWYER:

Anyone need a Lawyer?

EVERHONE RAISES THEIR HAND. LAWYER PROCEEDS TO THEM ALL AND HANDS OUT LETTERS.

ORGAN MUSIC CRESCENDOS AND ENDS WITH A FLOURISH. LOUD BELL SOUNDS

DIRECTOR:

AND CUT! WELL DONE EVERYONE! I couldn't follow any of that but well done I think!

PRODUCER AND SPONSORS APPROACH DIRECTOR DOWNSTAGE CENTER. ALL THE CAST AND STAFF ARE MEANDERING THEIR WAY OFF STAGE. JULIANNA 1 STAYS NEARBY AND HEARS THIS CONVERSATION.

PRODUCER:

May we have a word with you?

DIRECTOR:

Look if it's about the script, I'm going to meet with the writers, I know it's a little all over the place....

PRODUCER:

No no. The script is fine.

SPONSOR 1:

It was exciting!

SPONSOR 2:

And exhilarating!

SPONSER 1:

Can't wait to find out who Cole's father is!

SPONSER 2:

I especially like the Wheat and Meat Treats part!

PRODUCER:

It's about the actor playing Julianna. I thought we were very clear. We much prefer her understudy. You told us you would take care of it. Yet she is still here.

DIRECTOR:

Don't worry about it. I have a plan. I'm going to kill her.

AT THIS MOMENT THE CHANDELIER FALLS, NARROWLY MISSING JULIANNA 1. BIG SOUND EFFECT CRASH. THERE IS SCREAMS AND SHOCK. EVERYONE COMES RUNNING BACK ON STAGE.

PRODUCER:

OH BRAVO! So bold! I didn't quite expect that much commitment.

SPONSER 1:

Yes! We are very impressed with your dedication to your word!

SPONSER 2:

It's too bad you missed.

DIRECTOR:

NO! I didn't do that!

SPONSER 1:

But you said you had a plan to kill her!

SPONSER 2:

And that's about as attempted murder as it gets!

JULIANNA:

I heard you too! You rat! You scoundrel! You were going to murder me to get me out of the show?

DIRECTOR:

NO! I was going to have your character killed off and then have the other Julianna actor come into the story as Julianna 1's long lost twin!

JULIANNA:

Even angrier YOU WERE GOING TO KILL OFF MY CHARACTER!?!?! We don't even look alike!

JULIANNA 2 COME RUNNING IN

JULIANNA 2:

WAIT! Everyone listen! I have to tell you something!

JULIANNA 1:

You can't have my role!

JULIANNA 2:

No! I don't want it! I have an idea! Everyone, I'd like you to meet ...Eric.

PHANTOM WALKS IN

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 1:

Eric?

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT 2:

It never ends with you.

JULIANNA 1:

AHHH!! It's the Phantom!

PEOPLE GASP

JULIANNA 2:

No! Don't worry! He doesn't mean any harm. He's just an out of work actor, trying to get back on top. Show 'em Eric.

PHANTOM TAKES OFF HIS MASK. THERE IS A GASP IN THE CROWD.

JULIANNA 2:

Surely you all remember? Yes?

BOOM OPERATOR:

Brad! It's Breaking Brad!

THERE IS A GASP IN THE CROWD AND MURMURS WITH A DRIBBLE OF "THAT SHOW WAS TERRIBLE".

BOOM OPERATOR:

The last I saw you, your face was on fire.

PHANTOM/ERIC:

Yes. And I have hidden my hideous half mustache and myself ever since in the bowels of Studio 37 B.

JULIANNA 2:

To Julianna 1 I was thinking, we could both be in the show. I can be your long lost twin. *She walks towards Cole and grabs his hands* And my character can fall in love with Cole.

JULIANNA 1:

And what about me?

JULIANNA 2:

Well...I was thinking that the other Julianna could then fall in love with her re-kindled romance with her former high school sweetheart. *She looks at the Phantom.*

JULIANNA 1:

What? Are you kidding me?

JULIANNA 2:

Why not? I mean it could work if we just....wait a minute. Why is the Chandelier on the floor?

JULIANNA 1:

That lunatic cut it loose and tried to kill me!

PHANTOM/ERIC:

I would do no such thing! I mean...I thought about it sure. But I was stopped by this angel of mercy before I could carry out any dastardly deed.

DIRECTOR:

Well then who did?

GRIP:

Ummm...Nobody did. That's on me. I had it up there with some gaff tape and I think it just kinda gave away. My bad.

PHANTOM/ERIC:

To Julianna I WAIT! Behold. What beauty lies before me? He works his way toward Julianna I. Ravishing, resplendent. If I could write the beauty of your eyes And in fresh numbers number all your graces, The age to come would say, 'This poet lies; Such heavenly touches ne'er touch'd earthly faces.

JULIANNA 1:

Oh! Sonnet 17. I do declare Phantom....I mean...Eric. I do have a thing for a man with half a mustache I mean...my character does.

THEY GAZE INTO EACH OTHERS EYES LOVINGLY

DIRECTOR:

Well I'm fine with the idea. *Looks at producers and sponsors.* Yeah?
THEY HUDDLE UP, CONVERSE, THEN POP UP.

PRODUCER:

We agree. On one condition. *To the Phantom* How do you feel about Wheat and Meat Treats?

PHANTOM/ERIC:

Sings Breakfast lunch or dinner...Wheat and Meat Treats are a winner!

THERE ARE CHEERS

PHANTOM/ERIC:

I have one condition as well. My accident cost all those people their jobs on Breaking Brad. I got show cancelled. Those people need be hired back.

PRODUCER:

I think that the money we will make on this show will more than cover that.

PHANTOM/ERIC:

Hey everybody! They agree!

ALL THE CAMERA OPERATORS/BOOM MIC/CLAPPER LOADER/GRIP AND DIRECTOR FROM “BREAKING BRAD” COME IN. THEY ALL WALK OVER AND “BUDDY UP” WITH THE THE CAMERA OPERATORS/BOOM MIC/CLAPPER LOADER/GRIP AND DIRECTOR FROM WHISPERS OF SCANDAL. THEY ARE DIRTY.

PRODUCER:

Where did they come from?

PHANTOM/ERIC:

They were hiding in the building with me.

BOOM OPERATOR:

And you didn't invite me?!?!?

PHANTOM/ERIC:

Also, I was thinking...My character should be a break dancer.

THERE IS A HESITATION FROM EVERYONE.

PHANTOM/ERIC:

I'm kidding! GOTCHA GOOD!

EVERYONE LAUGHS IN RELIEF

DIRECTOR:

Ok! Let's shoot this thing! PLACES!

EVERYBODY GETS INTO WEDDING SCENE PLACES. THE CREW IS DOUBLED UP AT EACH POSITION. JULIANNA 1 IS ON THE ALTER WITH THE PHANTOM AND JULIANNA 2 IS ON THE ALTER WITH COLE.

DIRECTOR:
AND ACTION!

SHOW THEME ORGAN MUSIC UP

ANNOUNCER:
Happiness! Joy! Love! No conflict! No scandals! We've eliminated all the reasons for you to watch! It's time for "Whispers of Scandal".

MUSIC FADES.

MINISTER:
Do you, Cole, take Julianna 2 to be your lawful wedded wife?

COLE:
I do.

MINISTER:
And do you Julianna take Cole to be your lawful wedded husband?

JULIANNA 2:
I do.

MINISTER:
Do you...wait...*looks toward the Director* what's his character name?

DIRECTOR:
Why Brad of course!

MINISTER:
Do you Brad take Julianna 1 to be your lawful wedded wife?

PHANTOM/ERIC:
I do.

MINISTER:

And do you Julianna 1 take Brad to be your lawful wedded husband?

JULIANNA 1:

I do.

MINISTER:

I now pronounce you Husband and Wife and Husband and Wife.

LOUD CHEERS

DIRECOR:

AND CUT!

BOTH PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS 1:

AND CUT!

BOTH PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS 2:

COFFEE BREAK!

THE END