

Ms. Mumble

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NOTE:

For scenes labeled as "Week 2" the lead, Alex, has a severe relapse of her former severe stuttering ailment. In these scenes, ALL her speech is heavily "mumbled" to the viewer and is mainly communicated through the context of the scene. The words that she is attempting to say during the "Week 2" scenes are written here, in the script.

INT. COFFEE SHOP (WEEK TWO) - NOON

A bustling hive of activity and caffeinated aromas. Meetings of business and of casual nature occur within the open layout.

At the head of the line is a CUSTOMER (21M). He impatiently watches the BARISTA (19F) filling his cup at the espresso machine.

She completes the intricate dance of coffee making by securely pressing a lid onto the cup. The Barista slides the drink across the counter.

BARISTA
Anything else I can do for you today?

CUSTOMER
That's it, thanks.

The Customer flashes her a smile and walks to the exit.

ALEX (21M) approaches wearing a black jacket and a baseball cap, seemingly undercover. Aside from her clothing, she is using cheap black earbuds and has stubble over his face. Alex is speaking into the receiver on her earbuds.

BARISTA
Hello, welcome to Scribbles, how can I help you today?

In her hand, Alex is writing on a napkin. She hands it over to the barista with a weak smile.

The barista takes the napkin with a confused look. The barista glances at the napkin and then back at Alex. Still confused.

Alex points to the napkin.

ALEX
Hi, I would like the Skinny Vanilla Latte.

Her speech is choppy and difficult to clearly understand.

BARISTA
Just to confirm, you said the Skinny Vanilla Latte?

Alex awkwardly nods and surveys the growing line behind her.

BARISTA (cont'd)
Any specifications? Add-ins or a milk
preference or--

ALEX
--Up to you, whatever you recommend.

It takes a second for The Barista to comprehend the speech
of Alex.

BARISTA
Awesome, that's it?

Alex nods in confirmation.

BARISTA (cont'd)
Name?

ALEX
Anne.

The friendly barista ignores the awkward manner in which he
answers.

BARISTA
Okay, easy enough! Okay, Anne, your
total is four sixty-nine.

The barista moves to the cash register.

Alex maneuvers his debit card out of his leather wallet.

ALEX
Thanks! Thank you.

He nods repeatedly.

BARISTA
No thank you! Have a nice day Ma'am!
We'll have that ready for you in a
few minutes.

Alex steps out of line and sits down at the nearest empty
seat.

She opens his "Voice Memos" and stops a recording. She
replays the entire conversation with the barista. She
repeats each phrase until they sound clear and steady.

ALEX
Hi, I would like the Skinny Vanilla
Latte.

ALEX (cont'd)
Up to you, whatever you recommend.

ALEX (cont'd)
Anne. Anne. Anne.

ALEX (cont'd)
For today.

Amidst the other conversations, her errant mumblings become noticed. Eyes begin to linger towards Alex's direction followed by targeted whispers and laughter.

Cutting through his repeating words, she hears the barista.

BARISTA
Clarke! Is there a Clarke here?
Clarke!

Alex surveys the crowded coffee shop for the drink's owner.

INT. RADIO STATION (RECORDING ROOM) - DAY

A radio show is live. THREE panelists sit around a table, each wearing a headset and speaking into a microphone. JADE (21F) is focused on the man across from her. The man, BRYAN, (20M) is animated in both his speech and actions.

Alex is in front of the station computer and has his laptop open to his side.

BYRAN
No matter where they're from or who they worship is completely irrelevant. The ethics of creating even more advanced A.I. should scare everyone. At least worry. Deepfakes are becoming security risks and with no regulation, it's the wild west!

JADE
Whatever Skynet reality you're living in... it doesn't exist, you're delusional!

Alex turns her attention away from the conversation and looks at the clock.

JADE (cont'd)
The tech that you're making-up is centuries, probably even dimensions away.

(MORE)

JADE (cont'd)
Benefits are only on the horizon. We have basic principles that restrict the "Wild West" from ever becoming mainstream.

BRYAN
(laughing)
Do you actually believe-

ALEX
-Wow, looking at the time guys-

BRYAN
-Let me finish this. Do you actually believe-

ALEX
-We're going to have to make this an ongoing topic so you two can have something to debate next week.

Bryan shakes his head in frustration.

ALEX (cont'd)
But till then, we're all out of time for today. I'm your host Alex Dorian.

Alex points to the others to sign out, starting with Jade.

ALEX (cont'd)
Ms. Curameo-

JADE
-Jade Curameo here, and find me on Twitter, right on the NewsWeek account.

Alex points to Bryan.

BRYAN
Bryan, and as you all know I am banned on Twitter so just follow my TikTok RunBJRun and I guess the NewsWeek outlet on Twitter too.

Alex rolls his eyes.

ALEX
As always, you can trust that we will deliver the weirdest news stories that you definitely missed, local and global. This is NewsWeek signing out. Thanks for listening everyone and
(MORE)

ALEX (cont'd)
remember to stay informed.

Popular contemporary music fades in. They take off their headphones.

ALEX (cont'd)
And wrap.

JADE
So Alex? Was that too much or do you think we should do a bit more?

ALEX
That was basically perfect. Especially when Bryan kept cutting me off just now. I was feeling the heat! Great work.

Jade and Bryan begin to pack up.

ALEX (cont'd)
By the way, I'll be here fifteen minutes early next week.

He looks at the three pairs of eyes for confirmation.

BRYAN
Is that a promise? Are you sure that you want to make that?

The two look at each other and smiles grow. Jade faces Bryan.

JADE
An Early Alex? I'll believe it when I see it.

Bryan and Jade laugh.

BRYAN
That said "Bell" anyone? It is "Taco Tuesday".

JADE
It's always "Taco Tuesday" when we have a show.

The two begin to walk out of the recording booth. Alex begins wrapping up all three sets of headphone cords.

ALEX

Save me a seat, I'll clean up, and lock up shop. You guys go ahead. I'll meet you there.

JADE

We'll stay and help-

ALEX

Don't worry about it. Get a head-start. I'll meet you there. Hopefully, they don't run out of chalupas.

Jade nods in agreement.

Bryan begins to stretch as if he is about to run a marathon.

BRYAN

I'm feeling sixish today. I had five last time... I'm just feeling it today.

ALEX

When I get there it's double digits today guys. That debate built up my appetite.

Bryan looks at Alex in shock and grabs Jade's hand.

JADE

We'll see you in a few.

Jade and Bryan wave to Alex and walk out of the booth.

JADE (cont'd)

See you soon.

INT. RADIO STATION (RECORDING ROOM) - LATER

RECORDING ROOM CLEANING MONTAGE:

--Pushes the swivel chairs.

--Repositions the microphones.

--Wraps the headphone cords.

--Cleans notepaper scraps.

--Slides her MacBook into her bag and zips it.

END OF RECORDING ROOM CLEANING MONTAGE

She completes the DJ log on the station's computer and leans onto his hosting chair. She sighs. She submits her log and stands up and puts her bag on her shoulder. Her head turns to the door. She twists her swivel chair and looks up at the colorful board behind her of

She pushes in her chair and the door slowly creeps open.

Alex looks to the door with a surprised expression.

CLARKE (22M) enters the booth. He is carrying a stack of vinyl records. He acts excited but speaks very softly.

CLARKE

Alex, That great show! Your segment about the "False Alarm Sets Off Nuclear Scare In Canada" was concise, but still enthralling. Really impressed. Great work.

ALEX

You listened to the whole show?

CLARKE

I started listening as soon as my class ended so I think I missed about the first fifteen. I have to scout out the competition. Stay aware of the landscape.

He grows a devilish smile.

ALEX

(jokingly)
Ooo. Scaring me.

CLARKE

Really though, great work for a first-year show.

They cross each other. Alex moves to the door and Clarke takes a seat in front of the computer.

ALEX

Nice seeing you Clarke.

Clarke takes a record out of its cover and drops it on the player.

She puts her hand on the door handle and pulls it down.

CLARKE

Alex, I actually was hoping I could ask you something too.

Alex turns her head back, looking at him. He has the headphones around his neck now.

ALEX

Uh... Sure.

She lets go of the door and turns to face Clarke.

The record starts to spin and the music fills the studio. He speaks but the music is too loud to make out his words.

Clarke adjusts the volume of the music and looks back at Alex.

CLARKE

More accurately I guess, I have to tell you something.

Alex impatiently looks at him. He stares back at her in a sort of standoff.

CLARKE (cont'd)

Can you take a seat?

He gestures to the seat right next to him. She slowly approaches the chair, pulls it out, and sits in it. She turns to face him.

ALEX

Yeah?

CLARKE

I'm changing the time of my show.

ALEX

Oh Ah... why?

CLARKE

My job is changing my hours. They want me to come and open until I can hand the baton to the next guy.

Knowing she has to leave, she fidgets in her seat.

ALEX

My gosh, that sucks. That happened to me at my job back at home but I told them "I'm in high school"... "Can't do that".

She produces an artificial laugh and glances at the clock.

He begins to speak but she cuts him off.

ALEX (cont'd)

I'm sorry but my class starts at quarter to and parking at Franklin is a bitch. You have my email, if you want to send me something or if you want to get a coffee sometime to talk I'm totally down.

She wraps her fingers around the armrest and begins to push herself off of the seat.

He leans over to her and PUSHES down on the top of her thigh to keep her down. It's a tight squeeze on her thigh.

His hand does not move. His eyes are locked on her face.

She glances at her thigh and then stares at him. Confusion builds on her face.

CLARKE

Can you sit? Please?

With one hand she tries to push him off of her. He obliges and takes his hand off and returns it to his side.

ALEX

(sharply)

What?

CLARKE

I talked to Conor. We're switching showtimes. I wanted to tell you in person. I can't do this time anymore with my job... I'm sorry, I know you have to go.

The old song from the 1920s fades out.

He looks away from her and turns his attention to the computer. She holds her gaze on Clarke.

CLARKE (cont'd)

You just listened to Isham Jones and Ray Miller's chart-topping tune from the year 1925 "I'll See You in My Dreams". This is "The One-Hundred Year Timewarp" hosted by yours truly, Clarke Wolfe.

ALEX

What? I can't do this time slot.

With an annoyed look, Clarke holds a finger to his lips and moves it to Alex.

Alex stands up, puts the bag on her shoulder, and walks out of the booth.

CLARKE

I'll guide you from the age of Prohibition to the Decade that kicked off COVID-19. Two songs for every ten years and I just might let you know about what was going on in the world when each was released. I'll let you in on the twenties and thirties next break but until then you all and listen to this gem.

Clarke places a new record on the player and spins it. A song from the thirties begins playing.

He quickly lowers the volume and turns back to his mic. He fades the music in.

CLARKE (cont'd)

Also, I have a great surprise announcement to all of you loyal listeners at the top of the hour. See you all then.

He fades the music in.

INT. ALEX'S CAR - LATER

The car is clean and orderly.

Alex sits in the driver's seat of the car, still visibly shaken. She has her phone to her ear.

The radio is on and is lightly heard in the background (playing ex. Wesley Richmond Banjo Song).

ALEX

Hey Matt, I just left the studio after my show and I just wanted to ask you a quick question.

Alex dusts the dash of the car with her naked hand as she speaks.

MATT (V.O.)

Uh yeah... Sure, go ahead.

ALEX

Clarke came in and said something weird. I don't know if it was just a stupid joke or what. But he said that our shows were switching slots. I just wanted to clarify that that's not happening.

MATT (V.O.)

Alex.

He releases a deep sigh.

MATT (V.O.) (cont'd)

I don't know why he felt he had to say that.

ALEX

So he's just an asshole who made me late for class? Nothing's happening?

She begins to stutter her words.

MATT (V.O.)

You should get to class we can talk about this later. Call me then.

ALEX

So there is more to it? Just tell if he was being straight with me.

Matt sighs even deeper.

MATT (V.O.)

I don't want you to be late.

ALEX

I'm already going to be late for him so who gives a fuck!

The music on the radio fades out.

CLARKE (V.O.)

And that was Wesley Richmond playing-

MATT (V.O.)

I am not going to talk to you're when your speaking like that. We made a decision that I still believe will be a benefit for the station as a whole.

(MORE)

MATT (V.O.) (cont'd)

If you want to speak to me, in a respectful manner, come to my office on Thursday, during my office hours. Whatever questions you have, the time is yours. You can write them down to be prepared and have a clear mind, or whatever I don't like I said the time is yours. The entire time. I had time set aside to call you and lay everything out for you and your team at two today. I guess Clarke was excited to break the news-

CLARKE (V.O.)

-"Heartbreak Sunset" a remarkable folktune from 1988 from the great state of Kentucky. Now, I hinted at it earlier in program but I do have a bit of a bombshell. Some could ever describe it as a "Nuke". There are not too many other ways to describe it. So... Bang! "The One-Hundred Year Timewarp" is migrating to the prime time morning slot of eight to ten. We have the luxury to do this thanks to our sister program "NewsWeek" who agreed to switch show times with us. They run a great show and I am sure that it will continue to get even better.

She shuts off her phone cutting him off. Alex leans onto the steering wheel and threads her fingers into her hair.

CLARKE (V.O.) (cont'd)

Again for everyone you can catch "The One-Hundred Year Timewarp" eight to ten beginning next week. And now here is another tune from the great Wesley Richmond, and if you don't, I'll enlighten you next break.

He fades out and a "Wesley Richmond Banjo Song" begins to play.

INT. APARTMENT - ALEX'S ROOM - NIGHT

Alex sits at her desk, head down, with her hands in her hair. The same position as in her car. She slides her hands out of her hair.

A compact stylized female bedroom. Alex has made it her own. A golden record that reads NEWSWEEK #2 sits on a shelf.

She wears a tee-shirt and shorts. On her laptop she's working on a math assignment and writes her work into a note-book.

Alex opens the Podcast of "NewsWeek" from earlier that day. She reviews the show, line by line.

ALEX
 Music cued, fade out. Three, two, one
 and--
 (beat)
 --Go.

On cue, we hear Alex introducing the show and the panelists from the recording.

ALEX V.O.
 And alongside me is the lovely and
 ta-talented Jade Curameo.

ALEX
 Can you articulate you idiot?

Hearing herself, she notices minor vocal flubs. Alex scrubs to another time further into the recording.

BRYAN V.O.
 I believe that as we've seen in the
 past, we will see their emergence
 once again!

ALEX V.O.
 Like I said last week, Mr. Sarver,
 and I'll say it again; this is not
 "SpeculationWeek" we deal with facts
 and I deal with the truth.

Alex is having obvious problems with articulating simple words and is fumbling through words beginning with "S" and containing "TH".

ALEX
 So now you have a lisp too Alex,
 awesome!
 What the hell! Radio is a perfect
 path for someone who can't say
 "something"!

Alex picks up her laptop and walks with it, all the while he continues listening to the recording.

He makes his way to a mirror and watches her mouth structure as he repeats everything that the "Past Alex" had.

ALEX V.O.

Our next topic for today comes to us from a region we've not given any love to as of late, and that's Georgia.

ALEX

Our next topic for ta-today comes to us from a region we have not.

Her newfound stammer is infuriating her.

ALEX (cont'd)

Our next topic for ta-today comes from a region we have not spoke to (before-beat Topic for ta- today comes to-beat) Topic for ta-today comes to-

Her speech is worse than before. Stammering has greatly increased, along with her anger.

ALEX (cont'd)

Fuck!

She is incredibly tense. Alex's clenched left fist smacks her left thigh. Hard.

Out of breath, she leans against her apartment counter-top.

ALEX (cont'd)

We surely shall see the sunshine soon. We surely shall see the sunshine soon. We surely shall see the sunshine soon.

INT. DEAN OF COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE LOBBY - DAY

ALEX

We surely shall see the sunshine soon. We surely shall see the sunshine soon. We surely shall see the sunshine soon.

Alex stares at the back of the SECRETARY's (24M) computer monitor.

Alex is sitting in a bland lobby. Gray and white color the room. The secretary sits behind a desk.

SECRETARY

Hello, can I help you yet? Miss?

Alex nods and slowly approaches the desk.

ALEX

I need to talk to Ms. Ackerman.

SECRETARY

Mrs. Ackerman does not have time scheduled for walk-in meetings for the next few weeks. Do you have a scheduled appointment for today?

ALEX

No. But I need to speak to her.

SECRETARY

Mrs. Ackerman's meetings are in half-hour intervals. If you would like to schedule a meeting I can help you with that?

Alex stares at the door to Mrs. Ackerman's office. She nods her head.

SECRETARY (cont'd)

Her next available meeting time is on the twenty-third. Does that work for you?

Alex shakes her head.

ALEX

What?

SECRETARY

If you need time to check your calendar.

She continues to shake her head.

INT. STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICE - DAY

Alex sits across from the HEAD OF STUDENT AFFAIRS (46M), at his desk.

HEAD OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
I believe that the Dean of the
College of Communications could best
help you with that.

INT. LECTURE HALL - DAY

A TEACHING ASSISTANT (22M) stands in an empty lecture hall.

TEACHING ASSISTANT
Wow, that sucks.

INT. STUDENT MEDIA OFFICE - DAY

Alex sits across from the HEAD OF STUDENT MEDIA (36F), at
his desk.

HEAD OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
Did you schedule a meeting with the
Dean of the College of
Communications?

INT. LECTURE HALL - DAY

TEACHING ASSISTANT
What are you going to do about it?

INT. STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICE - DAY

Alex sits at the office desk, visibly jaded.

HEAD OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
So you're stating that he took your
show and now since his friend wanted
your personal time slot and is
forcing you to create a podcast
instead of a live show?

ALEX
Yes, without my team's consent. It
was forced upon us.

HEAD OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
They didn't offer you an alternative
live slot instead? That seems
strange.

ALEX

It should never have been taken from us in the first place! And they didn't offer another time. It wouldn't have mattered my team's schedule only worked in that slot.

He turns to his desktop and begins to type on the keyboard.

HEAD OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

I'll tell you what. It hurts me to see a student having a mal experience I'll send Ms. Ackerman an e-mail. And tell her your situation. Hopefully, we can get everything in order here.

ALEX

Mr. Marks... They forced me to give up the slot.

He continues to type on his desktop.

HEAD OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

How did they force you to? They pressured you? Did they threaten you? Who?

He takes his eyes off of his computer and looks at Alex in the eyes.

ALEX

Will I get the slot back?

HEAD OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

I don't know, Alex. Did someone threaten you?

INT. ALEX'S CAR - LATER

The car is a mess.

Alex sits in the driver's seat of the car, still visibly shaken but gaining exposure.

Her speech is strong and without a stutter.

ALEX

Hey Jade, I got the slot back. Let Bryan know please, I'm going to be busy with school and preparing for the show.

(MORE)

ALEX (cont'd)
I'll see you both at the regular
time, the regular time. I'll be
early, I promise.

INT. RADIO STATION - RECORDING ROOM - NOON

Jade and Bryan are around the table preparing and setting up
for the forthcoming show. The show clock displays eleven,
fifty-six.

BRYAN
You never answered my text. How'd she
convince them?

JADE
All I could have responded was "IDK"
since she never responded to me when
I asked that same question to her.

Jade and Bryan are setting up by plugging in headphones,
booting up microphones, and adjusting microphone lengths.

BRYAN
Are you sure she's actually coming?
Haven't seen her since the last time
we recorded.

JADE
If she texted me, she's going to be
here. We always start on time and for
some reason, I have confidence she
won't be late for once.

EXT. RADIO STATION - CONTINUOUS

A key-card swipes, and an approving beep replies. A thick
binder carried snugly with the left hand. The door swings
open.

INT. RADIO STATION (RECORDING ROOM) - CONTINUOUS

Jade and Bryan take their respective seats and unzip their
bags.

JADE
You got your three stories?

BRYAN
Found four actually.

JADE

I actually got four too. One or two will probably overlap. Who knows what she'll bring.

The room becomes deflated. Silence invades the studio.

BRYAN

If worse comes to worst we could probably host ourselves.

Bryan motions to the papers.

BRYAN (cont'd)

With these.

Jade reluctantly nods.

JADE

We're live in three.

INT. RADIO STATION (HALLWAY) - CONTINUOUS

Footsteps stab the floor and advance quickly. The door to the lobby is grabbed. We see the thick binder again, clutched with care. The lobby door opens. Darkness.

INT. RADIO STATION (RECORDING ROOM) - CONTINUOUS

Jade stares at the clock. It switches to fifty-seven. One of the professors (32F) that Alex questioned walks past, not missing a stride or looking into the studio.

The papers are laying out between them both. They are primed to start the show.

JADE

Bry, queue the intro. Let's get ready for this.

A rapid burst of knocks hit the door. Jade and Bryan look at each other. They both stand up.

JADE (cont'd)

I got it. Get it ready.

Jade opens it slowly which Alex pushes through to quickly enter. Alex is expressionless. Seemingly aware of the lack of time, she immediately proceeds toward her hosting chair.

JADE (cont'd)
Where the hell were you?

BRYAN
Yeah, I haven't seen you since the last show.

Alex ignores the questioning.

She whips his bag off and removes her jacket. She lays down the binder, removes his laptop from his bag.

The binder is organized, with various colored sticky notes acting as bookmarks.

ALEX
Planning and preparing for this week. Had to catch up on my classes too. So what is our line-up?

JADE
We found a bit about a baker supplying both factions in the sociopolitical unrest in El Salvador. And the death toll is exponentially rising every day.

ALEX
Great work. I like it. Sounds... interesting. It'll probably be cut for time.

BRYAN
What?

Alex pulls a red folder out of her bag.

ALEX
I just told you both. I've planned and prepared for this. I have something ready.

She pulls the stapled papers out of the folder.

Alex flips the binder open to a blue marker, the page is titled "Intro" followed by a lengthy monologue.

ALEX (cont'd)
What I have is literally breaking news. We're not "commenting" on this, we're reporting it.

BRYAN
(jokingly)
What did you do! Kill someone?

ALEX
(contemplating)
Not quite. Bryan link it. And can you actually sit on that side today?

Bryan looks at her with a confused expression. Alex answers him with a serious look. She gave him a command, not a request.

Bryan pushes his papers to the other side of the table, and walks around it, taking his bag with him.

Alex unlocks, opens the "Voice Memo" app on his smartphone and, hands it to Bryan. Bryan links Alex's phone to the station's equipment via aux cord. Bryan scrolls through the phone's catalog of hundreds upon hundreds of recordings. Alex opens and references his binder.

ALEX (cont'd)
Ready recording 81, 136.

BRYAN
Shit Alex, why in the hell do you have four hundred, five hundred, six... shit. What is this?

Bryan begins studying the oddities on his phone.

ALEX
When I say it, play them.

Alex adjusts her microphone.

JADE
Live in thirty, everyone ready?

Clarke casually walks past the window of the studio carrying multiple vinyl records. He is dressed formally.

He makes eye contact with Alex as he sees her and the team in the recording studio. His breathing grows uneven from the shock of seeing the booth being occupied. He says something but it is completely drowned out by the soundproofing of the studio.

Sound goes stale and time moves fast as Alex watches Clarke.

JADE (cont'd)
Eight. Seven.

Clarke tries to open the lobby door, but it's locked. He puts his records on the ground and takes his bag off of his back. He unzips the bag and digs through it, moving books and binders around.

Alex stands up. She looks away from Clarke and back to Bryan armed with daggered eyes and breathing heavily.

She walks over to the door, turns the lock, and props a chair against the doorknob.

ALEX
Stay on Memos! Don't go through my messages.

Her rage silences actions and words.

BRYAN
I wasn't on your messages-

ALEX
-We have a show to do. Okay?

JADE
Three.

ALEX
And Jade, turn the phone lines on.

She looks confused but does not question it. She nods.

JADE
Two. One.

All three panelists are now unsettled and less prepared than they were without their host. The music fades in and after the tune plays, it fades out. Alex reads from her miniature notepad.

Clarke finds his keycard and opens the door to the main lobby. He opens the door.

ALEX
Hello everyone and welcome to the return of Newsweek- the unofficial premiere of season four.

The doorknob on the studio door begins to rattle. Jade and Bryan look at the door in surprise. Bryan slowly stands up and approaches the door. Alex snaps her fingers three times, in the direction of Bryan. He looks back at her. She shakes her head and points to his seat.

Bryan complies and slowly returns to his seat and sits down. The banging continues.

ALEX (cont'd)

Even though a new semester hasn't started enough has changed for us here at the studio to slap a new number on the show. We all need a fresh start. As always, I am your host that knows the most, Alex Dorian and us at NewsWeek have been working extremely hard to bring you, our loyal listeners, a true update as to why we have been Podcast-only last week.

Bryan holds Alex's phone in front of her. It's an incoming call from Clarke.

Alex shakes her head and gives Bryan the "Keep Rolling" motion.

ALEX (cont'd)

I will be as blunt as I always have been with you, our listeners, since I know that I am completely in the right. My conscience is clean. I have been harassed both physically and verbally in an effort by certain individuals at the station to remove my time slot from me due to extreme and obvious nepotism being displayed at the station. There has not been from the beginning of this incident, until now, been a proper reason given to me and my team as to why our slot was vacated and given to another host. I REPEAT, midway through our semester when this show means the most to our careers when we leave college it was pulled out from our feet. While we were given time to record our show as a weekly podcast, we all are striving to work in live radio and after three years, we earned our position here at the station.

Clarke walks down the hallway of the building. listens to the the studio and is yelling on the other side of the window. He looks directly at Alex. Jade sees Clarke grows more concerned.

ALEX (cont'd)

This has been weeks in the making but only recently enough facts have accrued for a solid case. I suspect that our show's growing ratings protected us but I guess it just was not enough. On every occasion since the seizure of our time slot, the host of another show has attempted to silence me from fighting back with physical intimidation. The first incident of harassment I could not record since I shocked myself, but here are my second and third encounters with Clarke Wolfe each on two separate occasions.

The phone lines have been ringing off the hook since he mentioned the words "Major Lawsuit".

ALEX (cont'd)

The files of these two incidents can be found on the NewsWeek website, they were uploaded mere moments ago. I am used to discussing the repercussions of the news with our team, but never participating in it.

Alex points toward Bryan, cueing him. The short clips 64 and 81 begin to play with Clarke speaking with her "friend".

ALEX (cont'd)

My requests for action by the university have fallen on deaf ears. The Office of Student Affairs sent me to the Dean of the College of Communications office and the secretary of the dean of communications sent a link to book a meeting with the dean, three weeks from now, even after I described the severity of the situation. It's a never-ending loop of effectiveness.

He looks at his panelists. Then at his reflection on his laptop.

ALEX (cont'd)

I need action now. That's why I came to you all.

Alex removes his eyes from his notes and surveys his crew. The crew returns expressions of confusion and shock.

ALEX (cont'd)
Any thoughts?

FADE TO BLACK

Frantic buzzing and ringing of the crew's personal phones and the studio's landline is heard. The banging on the studio door continues.

SAMUEL TEYSSIER