

## Authors' Notes:

At Risk! is meant to be a fun and cheesy show for the cast, crew, and audience to enjoy. If there is anything that needs to be cut or minorly edited, feel free to do so as long as the story and feeling of the show is not affected.

There are roles that have alternative names to be more inclusive to all genders whilst casting. Feel free to adjust these characters' genders while casting, and feel free to adjust their pronouns wherever necessary.

At Risk! has an interactive aspect intended to make the audience feel like they are part of a real live studio audience. This aspect should be thought about during production by ensuring that the set and properties add to the overall feeling of the show. Additionally, audience participation is encouraged while producing At Risk!, so make sure that characters speak directly to the audience and their delivery implies that the events are happening in real time.

Shabloonies (SHAW-blue-KNEES) are the points/lives of At Risk! These can be anything from balloons you pop to giant cream pies you throw in the face of the loser, as long as it's fun and feels cheesy.

There are commercial breaks sprinkled throughout At Risk! These are meant to separate the game show rounds from the murder investigation scenes, further expanding upon the game show feeling. They have no effect on the main plot line of At Risk! other than showing what the audience is doing during the investigation scenes. They should be quick, fun, and absurd.

CAST:

GARY GOODMAN - 40's, The host of At Risk! He never drops his TV persona and constantly announces and describes the world around him.

SAVANNA BLACK - 40's, The hostess of At Risk! She is incredibly ditsy and just plays along to the situation around her.

HARVEY JOHNSON - 50's, The producer of At Risk! He is a powerful voice in Burbank and his number one concern is making sure the ratings stay up by whatever means necessary.

FINLEY HAYS - 20's, The production assistant of At Risk! They hate their job (and make it known) but hope to eventually rise through the ranks. This character can be cast as any gender.

9-VOLT - 20's, The cameraman for At Risk! He is an avid surfer/skater who enjoys his work and the occasional showmance. Lines may be adjusted to cast this character as any gender.

QUENTIN "SLATE" SMITH - 20's, A contestant on At Risk! He is a "semi-famous" social media influencer who lives his life on the internet and is obsessed with his image. Lines may be adjusted to cast this character as any gender (name can be QUINN "SLATE" SMITH).

TRISTEN JACKSON - 20's, He is one of Slate's obsessive followers.

KRISTEN JANSON - 20's, She is one of Slate's obsessive followers.

ETHEL TRACY - 80's, A contestant on At Risk! She is sweet, caring, and the ideal grandmother that is on her deathbed.

BILL BROWN - 30's, A contestant on At Risk! He is a trivia expert who lacks any other defining skills.

IVAN BROKEBAR- 40's, A member of the live studio audience. He is a stern and cold escaped inmate. Lines may be adjusted to cast this character as any gender (name can be MISTY MEANER).

PHIL E. CHEESESTEAK - 20's, A member of the live studio audience. He is an avid enjoyer of food and television, but mostly food. Lines may be adjusted to cast this character as any gender (name can be MACK N. CHEESE).

SARAH SAMANTHA SANDERS - 20's, A member of the live studio audience. She is At Risk!'s biggest fan with a severe lisp. Lines may be adjusted to cast this character as any gender (name can be SPENCER SAWYER SANDERS).

DR. SETH O'SCOPE - 30's, A member of the live studio audience. He is a doctor who actually received a degree, even though it doesn't show. Lines may be adjusted to cast this character as any gender (name can be DR. STEPH O'SCOPE).

EMMA SPENDSIVE - 20's, A member of the live studio audience. She is bratty and relies on her rich father's money for everything.

ADVERTISER - 40's, They are a washed-out actor who cannot land any role besides the occasional TV advertisement. However, they love every second of it. This character can be cast as any gender and lines may be split between as many actors as necessary.

CONSUMERS - 30's, They are just your everyday average Americans. These characters can be cast as any gender and lines may be split between as many actors as necessary.

POLICE OFFICERS - 30's, It's all in the name. This character can be cast as any gender, or may be portrayed by dead characters, stage crew, or cast independently to best fit the production.

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

*The curtain opens on the set of At Risk!, a game show. Onstage, there should be three booths for three contestants, and a host booth. The production crew, consisting of GARY, SAVANNA, 9-VOLT, FINLEY, and HARVEY frantically try to set the stage for the show. FINLEY escorts contestants onto the stage before exiting.*

HARVEY

We're on in five! I haven't seen people move this slow since I produced "Senior Citizens on Ice"!

SAVANNA

5... 4... 3... 2--

HARVEY

Savanna, honey, please just go to your place.

SAVANNA

You're the boss, Harvey!

*SAVANNA moves to take her place at the host's booth. As she does so, GARY enters.*

HARVEY

Gary, buddy, pal, get over here for a second.

GARY

Gary is making his way down!

HARVEY

Love the enthusiasm, kid, but here's the deal: We both know that you're not pulling any younger viewers. At Risk!'s numbers are dropping by the week. If you don't pull our ratings up soon, well, let's just say that it may be time to explore some new talent. After all, Savanna up there is already showing some signs of wear.

SAVANNA

Oh, thank you! This is my favorite dress!

*GARY and HARVEY exchange a glance.*

GARY

No need to worry your silly little head! Gary has still got the goods!

HARVEY

Whatever you need to tell yourself, champ, just get more viewers.

*GARY goes to meet SAVANNA.*

HARVEY (CONT'D)

Finley! Where's Finley?

*FINLEY comes sprinting onstage with two coffees in hand.*

FINLEY

Sorry, boss. They were out of your Venti Iced Shaken Oat Milk Cinnamon Sugar Espresso with 13 pumps of caramel drizzle and almond milk instead of the Oat Milk. I just got you a black coffee, if that's okay.

HARVEY

What do I pay you for?

FINLEY

Mostly super mundane tasks.

HARVEY

Fair enough. Now go handle that audience.

*HARVEY begins to exit, but stops to talk to 9-VOLT, who is tinkering with his camera.*

HARVEY (CONT'D)

Make sure you keep that camera steady, buddy!

9-VOLT

Boss man, we use mounts now. We've used mounts for three years, dude. I tell you this before every show!

HARVEY

Keep it up!

*HARVEY gives 9-VOLT finger guns and then exits. The curtain closes as FINLEY enters in front of the curtain to address the audience.*

FINLEY

(sighs)

Good morning, everyone! How are we doing today? Woo! Excellent! We're so glad to have you here at Studio 14C which you all know is the second most famous studio on this lot. Curse you "Senior Citizens on Ice"! My name is Finley, and I'm the production assistant here for At Risk! What that means is I am forced to talk to you all when the real boss doesn't want to. We're getting ready to start our show soon.

Apologies again for confiscating your phones upon entry; this is to avoid any flash photography or unwanted noise during this week's episode. If there is an emergency, please feel free to step into the lobby to cry-- you won't receive your phones back until we conclude today's filming. You may notice me holding comically large signs indicating you to laugh, boo, or do other things throughout the taping. Between rounds, we've hired a troupe of actors to keep you entertained-- these are definitely not sponsorships, and we are definitely not making money off of this. This is a live recording, so please don't mess it up. Without further ado, here is Season 14, Episode 7 of At Risk!

## SCENE TWO

*The curtain opens with GARY behind the host's booth and SAVANNA next to him. BILL, SLATE, and ETHEL stand behind their respective booths. FINLEY is on the side of the proscenium, waiting to hold up signs. 9-VOLT is opposite them, filming the show.*

GARY

Hello, everyone, and welcome back to another episode of the award nominated game show, At Risk! I'm your dashing host, Gary Goodman. As always, with me I have my lovely hostess, Miss Savanna Black!

SAVANNA

Hi!

*FINLEY holds up an applause sign.*

GARY

And without further ado, let's meet tonight's contestants! First up, we have Bill Brown from Sacramento, California. Bill, why don't you tell us a little bit about yourself?

BILL

Thanks, Gary! I'm Bill Brown and I graduated from Harvard. I never bothered to get married because I spend almost all of my time at trivia competitions across the country. In fact, I don't even have a real job. My trivia earnings are just enough to barely scrape by daily. I hope tonight's grand prize will be enough for me to start a savings account. I'm really excited to be here!

*FINLEY holds up an applause sign.*

GARY

Thank you, Bill! Speaking of which, tonight's grand prize is \$100,000! That is, if you're speedy enough to beat out quick cash!

*SAVANNA holds up a briefcase in all sorts of awkward positions. After an obnoxious amount of time, she sets it down.*

GARY (CONT'D)

Moving on to contestant number two, Quentin Smith, from New York!

SLATE

Excuse me, it's Slate!

GARY

My little flash card here says that your name is Quentin!

SLATE

Well, it's not!

GARY

Whatever! Why don't you tell us about yourself, Slate.

SLATE

My name is--

*TRISTEN and KRISTEN run onstage from the audience. They can draw out this process and make it as dramatic as possible. Once onstage, they gather around SLATE.*

KRISTEN

Slate! He was born on October 18th--

TRISTEN

1997, at 6:04am!

KRISTEN

From birth, he had a hard childhood. He was kicked in the--

GARY

Pardon me, but who are you two?

TRISTEN & KRISTEN

We're his biggest fans!

SLATE

I'm kind of a big deal. I have almost 3k followers on Instagram, so I'm basically a R-List Celebrity. Although, my fame does have its downsides.

GARY

Why are they here?

SLATE

I don't know, they're just always with me. I haven't showered alone in 3 weeks.

*FINLEY holds up an applause sign.*

GARY

Okay then! I'm pretty sure that's cheating but we've already spent too much time introducing you! Moving on to contestant number three, Ethel Tracy, from Old Orchard Beach, Maine!

ETHEL

Hello dearie.

GARY

I'd let you pinch my cheeks any day!

*FINLEY holds up a sign saying "LAUGH".*

GARY (CONT'D)

Please tell us about yourself.

ETHEL

Well, my grandson signed me up for this back in season one... but you just now got back to me so here I am! I may not have the youth that these whippersnappers have but with age comes wisdom!

GARY

Tell us, Ethel, what would a woman like you do with \$100,000?

ETHEL

Well, Gary, burial services aren't that cheap anymore and granny is hoping for pure oak!

*ETHEL crosses her fingers as FINLEY holds up an applause sign.*

GARY

Okay then! Thank you, I guess! Well, what do you say we get started with round one? If you're new to At Risk!, then here is how the game works: Each of our contestants will start the game with five Shabloonies.

*SAVANNA holds up and models a Shabloonie.*

GARY (CONT'D)

As each round goes on, they will be asked questions that increase in difficulty. If they get questions wrong, they'll lose a Shabloonie!

*FINLEY holds up a sign saying "BOO!".*

GARY (CONT'D)

If any contestant runs out of Shabloonies, they will be eliminated from the game. The last contestant still standing moves on to the quick cash round for a chance to win \$100,000. Let's get started with round one!



GARY pulls out flash cards.

GARY (CONT'D)

Bill, you are now At Risk! To save yourself, can you tell me when the war of 1812 began?

BILL

Gary, according to my degree in Anthropology from Harvard, I believe that it was in 1812.

GARY

Correct! You are safe! Moving on to Slate... and Tristen... and Kristen. It's time for an arithmetic answer. What is two plus two?

KRISTEN

Guys, I think it's six.

SLATE

What do you mean you think it's six?

TRISTEN

Two plus two is four, plus there are two two's, so by the law of doubles that makes it six!

SLATE

What? No! It's obviously four! There is no such thing as the law of doubles!

KRISTEN

I say we take a vote.

SLATE

Guys! I'm the contestant here!

GARY

We're gonna need a final answer.

KRISTEN

Raise your hand for six!

*TRISTEN, KRISTEN, and SAVANNA raise their hands.  
FINLEY holds up an applause sign.*

TRISTEN

Ouch... looks like you lost.

SLATE

I guess that I'm going to answer six...

GARY

It appears that answer is... (beat) incorrect. Savanna, please take away one of their Shabloonies.

*SAVANNA does a weird walk over to SLATE and removes a Shabloonie from SLATE. SLATE sputters in indignation. FINLEY holds up a sign saying "BOO!".*

GARY (CONT'D)

And moving right along! (Looking at his cards) Ethel, are you ready for your question?

ETHEL

Yes.

GARY

According to my card... that is correct! You get to keep your Shabloonies.

ETHEL

Bless your soul, Gary.

*FINLEY holds up an applause sign.*

GARY

And that concludes round one!

BILL

Seriously? You only asked a single question!

GARY

Slate over here decided to get chatty so we're out of time! Now let's hear a quick word from our sponsor!

*The curtain closes.*

### SCENE THREE

*The ADVERTISER and CONSUMERS enter as a commercial break takes place in front of the curtain.*

ADVERTISER

Do you suffer from chronic foot fungus?

CONSUMER 1

Yes!

ADVERTISER

Do you experience symptoms of Athlete's Foot, footburn, or upset feet?

CONSUMER 2

Yes!

ADVERTISER

Have you found yourself rubbing everything from ChapStick to lotion in between your toes.

CONSUMER 3

Oh my god! Yes!

ADVERTISER

Well, do I have a solution for you!

ALL CONSUMERS

Well! What is it?

CONSUMER 2

I can't stand around all day!

ADVERTISER

Introducing Preparation A to Z, for everything in between!

CONSUMER 3

Gee, what's Preparation A to Z?

ADVERTISER

We're so glad that you're the only one that asked! Prep AZZ is a new highly experimental medication that can heal any type of illness!

CONSUMER 1

Can it heal my stomach ulcer?

ADVERTISER

Sure!

CONSUMER 2

Can it fix my extremely long fingernails?

ADVERTISER

Sure!

CONSUMER 3

Can it heal my relationship with my parents?

ADVERTISER

Probably not, but you can try! Pick up a tube or two or three today!

*All CONSUMERS exit.*

ADVERTISER (CONT'D)

Preparation A to Z starts at the low, low price of 5 quick installments of \$45 each. Please be aware that Preparation A to Z may cause nausea, headaches, diarrhea, low self-esteem, extra limb growth, or any preexisting conditions to become much, much worse. Call your doctor today!

*The ADVERTISER exits.*

## SCENE FOUR

*The curtain opens on the set of At Risk! SLATE lays dead in the middle of the set. SAVANNA is screeching as 9-VOLT, HARVEY, and GARY run to her aid. FINLEY holds up a sign that says "REMAIN CALM".*

SAVANNA

Oh my God! Guys! Slate got red paint on my shoes!

HARVEY

(to 9-VOLT)

Cut the cameras! Cut the cameras, cut the cameras, cut the cameras!

9-VOLT

What do you think I'm trying to do, boss man!

GARY

We're going to send you back for one more quick commercial break!

*The curtain closes again as FINLEY steps out in front of the curtain.*

FINLEY

Okay, everyone! Please remain calm! I know it looked a lot like Slate was dead and his blood stained Savannah's shoes! But, but... that is simply not the case... because... uh--

*HARVEY steps out to meet FINLEY.*

HARVEY

--because Slate just had a little accident. For sure. Nothing to worry about at all, folks. On a completely unrelated note, does there happen to be a doctor in the audience tonight?

*SETH stands up in the audience.*

HARVEY (CONT'D)

Perfect! I hear they may need you for, uh, a medical related segment later in the show. Could you meet our team backstage?

SETH

Of course!

HARVEY

Thank you very much, Doctor.

FINLEY

And moving on... also unrelated to any of the aforementioned events, did any audience member happen to notice anyone out of their seat in the last 20 minutes?

*SARAH stands up in the audience.*

SARAH

I did! That guy over there just got back from concessions and has been chewing non-stop! It's driving me crazy!

*PHIL slowly stands up in the audience with his face shoved full of food.*

PHIL

Who, me?

SARAH

Yeah, food face! You probably snuck off and caused the unrelated accident!

PHIL

I don't know what you're talking about!

*IVAN stands up in the audience.*

IVAN

The girl is forgetting to mention that she was also absent during filming. You are not so innocent yourself, Cupcake.

SARAH

No, it's different for me though. I'm At Risk!'s biggest fan! How'd you see me anyway?

IVAN

I was also in foyer.

FINLEY

Did you see anyone else?

IVAN

Yes. Small girl.

FINLEY

Is it perhaps... that one?

*FINLEY points to a random member of the audience.*

IVAN

No. Too much balding, that one.

*NOTE: The insult may adjust based on the audience member. IVAN points to EMMA, who is also sitting in the audience.*

IVAN (CONT'D)

That one. Has much money in purse that one.

EMMA

Oh no! I'm not getting roped into this! You three better figure this out before I have to get my daddy involved!

HARVEY

Enough! You four, get up here!

*IVAN, PHIL, EMMA, and SARAH make their way onstage.*

HARVEY (CONT'D)

Okay audience, we're kindly going to kick the rest of you out. We'll have security escort you out into the foyer in just a minute. We just can't have any more unrelated "accidents". We'll call you back when, or if, we resume filming.

*The curtain opens. SETH, who is finishing up examining SLATE in the middle of the floor, stands up to address the group. TRISTEN and KRISTEN are visibly distraught.*

SETH

Yep, he's dead alright. Time of death: 10:47 A.M. Someone should write that down.

HARVEY

Finley, get on that. Oh, and get the names of these delinquents that were out of their seats. I'll be right back.

*HARVEY exits.*

IVAN

(to HARVEY)

Watch it, dedushka.

FINLEY

(pointing to EMMA)

We'll start with you, I guess.

EMMA

Emma. Emma Spendsive. And don't you dare spell it wrong because I'll have my bodyguards after you just like that!

IVAN

Where were bodyguards when man lost life?

FINLEY

(pointing to IVAN)

And you are?

IVAN

Ivan Brokebar.

SAVANNA

I love your jumper! Where'd you get it?

IVAN  
Burbank correctional facility.

GARY  
Gary is very scared!

FINLEY  
I'm just going to pretend like I didn't hear that.

SETH  
I guess I'll go next. My name is Dr. Seth O'Scope. This was supposed to be my day off, but people don't stop dying. I guess the M.D. doesn't stand for "my day".

FINLEY  
I know this probably isn't how you wanted to spend your day, doctor, but we appreciate you being here.  
(to PHIL)  
And you are?

PHIL  
(with his face stuffed with a sandwich)  
Me?

FINLEY  
No, the other person with a giant sandwich in his mouth.

PHIL  
Oh, sorry. I'm Phil E. Cheesesteak. I don't really care for this show, but I am a world-renowned concession stand connoisseur. Not to anyone besides myself, but...

FINLEY  
Very well, Mr. Cheesesteak. And last but not least we have?

*SARAH begins violently shaking FINLEY's hand.*

SARAH  
Sarah Sanders! I'm a serious fan! I never thought that I'd have the chance to be up here on set in real life!  
(touching SAVANNA's face)  
You can't even tell you've had Botox done!

SAVANNA  
I try!

SARAH  
(to GARY)  
And Gary! I am THE biggest fan!  
(mimicking GARY)  
Hello, everyone, and welcome back to another episode of the award nominated game show, At Risk! I'm your dashing host, Gary Goodman.

(back to being herself)  
I practice that every night to myself in the mirror!

GARY  
Congratulations, Sarah Sanders! You've won a brand new restraining order.

*SAVANNA runs and quickly grabs the suitcase from the host's booth. She brings it over and hands it to SARAH. HARVEY enters with manila folders with papers.*

SAVANNA  
Be careful! It's very expensive!

*HARVEY rips the suitcase out of SARAH's hands.*

HARVEY  
Absolutely not! Nobody on this show has won that briefcase yet, and I don't intend on giving it away now!

SAVANNA  
Sorry, boss!

HARVEY  
It's okay sweetheart. You know that game we play while we're taping?

SAVANNA  
The one where I count to 26 in my head and restart if I mess up?

HARVEY  
That's the one.  
(to everyone else)  
That should keep her busy for five minutes, give or take.

*SAVANNA walks to the back of the set and begins counting. HARVEY gives the suitcase to FINLEY.*

HARVEY (CONT'D)  
Finley, put this in the safe. I'll take care of it before the next round.

FINLEY  
You got it, boss!

*FINLEY exits. HARVEY gives a contract to SETH, IVAN, EMMA, SARAH, and PHIL.*

HARVEY  
And we're going to need you guys to sign these.

EMMA  
A contract? I demand a lawyer before I sign this!



HARVEY

No need to worry. It's just to simply ensure that the studio cannot be held liable for any more "accidents" that may occur. Thankfully, we snuck that into one of the clauses in ol' Quentin here's contract.

TRISTEN & KRISTEN

(from the back, crying)

His name is Slate!

GARY

Trust me, that is correct!

HARVEY

(looking at the contract)

Luckily, Tristen and Kristen signed it too, apparently. Anyway, just sign it, would you?

*FINLEY enters with pens and begins handing them out to IVAN, PHIL, EMMA, SETH, and SARAH.*

IVAN

Last time I sign papers without reading I was confined to 78 years in maximum security prison.

FINLEY

Sign it!

*They all sign the contracts and hand them back to FINLEY.*

FINLEY (CONT'D)

Thank you.

ETHEL

It's really not that bad, dearies. Bill and I were forced to sign the contract before we went on air.

BILL

If there is anything that I learned from years of trivia, it's that all legal documents are safe to sign, regardless of circumstances.

HARVEY

Did we get the names of these hooligans?

*FINLEY points to each individual as they say their name.*

FINLEY

I've got Emma Spendrive, Ivan Brokebar, Dr. Seth O'Scope, Phil E. Cheesesteak, and

(with a lisp)

Sarah Sanders.

SARAH

Hey!

EMMA

Pipe down, short stack!

PHIL

Did someone say short stack?

HARVEY

You did not need to write that down. I don't think I could ever forget those names or forgive any of your parents.

9-VOLT

Uh, sorry to harsh your mellow, boss man, but has anyone called the five-O?

HARVEY

Absolutely not! Can you imagine what that would do to our ratings? What would the studio think? We'd be canceled faster than The Real Housewives of Wyoming! We cannot have cops in this building.

9-VOLT

I'm not trying to question your morals, boss man, but I'm not sure how I feel about that.

HARVEY

Once the seventh zero hits your paycheck, you learn to compromise your morals pretty quick. Besides, there is no need to worry! Slate probably just had some medical emergency.

SETH

Oh no, there were definitely four puncture wounds in his quadratus lumborum. Whoever wanted him gone wanted him gone bad.

*There is a moment of silence. Breaking it, is SAVANNA in the back.*

SAVANNA

11... 12... uhhh... Dang it! I have to start all over again.

HARVEY

1, 2, skip a few, 26! Savanna, get back over here. Kristen and Tristen, would you like to go put Slate in my office for the time being? He's starting to bloat.

KRISTEN

All 172 pounds of him are perfect!

GARY

The answer we were looking for was "All 172 pounds of him were perfect."

TRISTEN

Do we really have to do this?

HARVEY

Yes! I can't have a neo-classic hipster stinking up my set.

*TRISTEN and KRISTEN cry while dragging SLATE offstage.*

EMMA

So, you're telling me there is a killer on the loose? And you're just making us stay here?

GARY

Sounds like we're all At Risk!

HARVEY

Listen, I'm not making you stay here. You're legally obligated to. Remember that contract you signed?

*HARVEY pulls out one of the contracts and uses a magnifying glass to read it.*

HARVEY (CONT'D)

If you look at paragraph 24, subsection F, it clearly states that, "In the event that one of the contestants are brutally murdered on the set of At Risk!, anyone not in their seats at the time of the murder and who has signed this contract is legally required to stay on set until a feasible conclusion has come to the crime scene."

ETHEL

My grandson didn't tell me about that!

BILL

Huh. You learn something new everyday.

9-VOLT

You guys should see the contracts that employees have to sign. There is a clause in mine stating that if I were to lose a tooth on set, At Risk! would legally own any of my earnings from the tooth fairy.

EMMA

Legally, At Risk! should really get prepared for the hellfire my daddy is going to unleash upon you as soon as I get out of here. On a much more attractive note, who's the cameraman?

FINLEY

That's 9-Volt. Well, we all call him 9-Volt because we don't actually know his name.

HARVEY

That's how he signs his contracts, so it's good enough for me.

EMMA

Anyone else feel that spark?

GARY

And just like that, Emma has the hots for number 9!

EMMA

Shut it, you dollar store Speak & Spell.

9-VOLT

Ouch.

GARY

This flirtatious fun is just grand and all, but good-ole Gary thinks it's time to move onto Catch that Killer!

SAVANNA

I thought they recorded that on Wednesdays.

*The group ignores SAVANNA.*

SARAH

I mean, not to point the finger or anything, but...

*SARAH points to IVAN.*

SARAH (CONT'D)

he is literally in a prison jumpsuit.

IVAN

I thought I escaped accusations once asked for final meal.

SARAH

All I'm saying is that if I had to pick out a murderer out of a lineup of game show contestants, the prisoner is the first person I would choose.

9-VOLT

Woah, brochacha! You can't just stereotype people like that. Like, what were you even doing up anyway?

SARAH

Looking around, obviously! It's not everyday that you get a chance to explore the best show ever created!

SAVANNA

I love the Golden Girls!

ETHEL

Blanche married my second ex-husband.

PHIL

I personally believe that "Banana Bonanza: The New Smoothie Empire" is the best show ever created.

FINLEY

And what were you up to, Phil?

GARY

Whatever could Phil E. Cheesesteak have been up to?

PHIL

I was eating.

GARY

(Sarcastically)

What a riveting twist!

PHIL

Okay, well, if I'm being honest, those nachos went right through me and..

GARY

I'm afraid that's all we have time for.

EMMA

I'm going to puke.

HARVEY

Why don't you cough up why you were out of your seat?

EMMA

Can't a girl use the bathroom? Sheesh!

IVAN

Three people in bathroom at time of murder? I feel odds are lower than chance of escape from Burbank correctional facility. Low, but not impossible.

FINLEY

So, you're telling me that at the time of the murder Ivan, Phil, and Emma were all in the bathroom?

HARVEY

I believe it. We're really up-selling those jumbo At Risk! of Liver Failure cups this week.

FINLEY

Whatever. We'll go with that, for now. I guess we can clear Dr. Seth O'Scope as well. He's just helping us out.

SETH

I'll collect my co-pay later.

HARVEY

Not a chance doc.

SETH

It was worth a try.

FINLEY

Well, that got us absolutely nowhere.

9-VOLT

Who would have guessed? A room full of potential murderers didn't admit to murdering someone.

FINLEY

(sarcastically)

That was helpful. Thank you, 9-Volt.

9-VOLT

Anytime.

BILL

So, I want to preface this by saying that it definitely wasn't me. But, statistically, 97% of all game show murders are done by women over the age of 90.

ETHEL

Who, me? I'm just a sweet, innocent, old lady. Except for that time in '62... the family never did replant that lemon tree.

9-VOLT

I'm starting to side with Bill. That "just a sweet, innocent, old lady" line was real fishy.

BILL

See! See!

ETHEL

Well, I don't want to be rude or anything..

*ETHEL walks incredibly slowly towards BILL while becoming more and more aggressive.*

ETHEL (CONT'D)

But, Bill here is poorer than I was in the great depression. He'd do just about anything for some money, wouldn't you Bill?

BILL

(nervously)

Yes!

*ETHEL turns around and goes back to where she was.*

ETHEL

Hmm! Just something to think about.

HARVEY

I think it's safe to say that we're all a little bit suspicious. Look, 9-Volt could be some deranged killer, Gary could have had some "secret" beef with Slate, and Savanna could be playing us all for fools.

SAVANNA

What are we playing?

HARVEY

Scratch that last one. And who knows, maybe I'm doing this as some huge publicity stunt to increase our views, appeal to a younger audience that's more interested in true crime than trivia, and use it as a shade to possibly eliminate a certain crew member in which upper management says I need valid reasoning to sack. Who knows!

GARY

Ladies and gentlemen, we have Caught that Killer!

*TRISTEN and KRISTEN enter.*

HARVEY

Not actually. All I'm saying is no one is off the hook. Not even Tristen and Kristen!

KRISTEN

We loved Slate!

TRISTEN

All those nights sneaking into his bedroom, wasted!

HARVEY

Well, maybe those two are off the hook. But that's it!

SAVANNA

Congratulations, here's your runner up prize: a new fishing set.

HARVEY

Make that three. Savanna that was a prize five seasons ago.

*HARVEY receives a call and exits to take it. TRISTEN, KRISTEN, SETH, and EMMA break off and have their own discussion. IVAN, ETHEL, BILL, PHIL, and 9-VOLT break into a different group. GARY and SAVANNA begin having their own discussion as well. SARAH pulls FINLEY aside.*

SARAH

So, now that you're down a contestant, can I fill in? It would be my dream!

FINLEY

The polite answer is no. We have an extensive screening process. So unless you have your headshot, 8 forms of I.D., a triple cheeseburger, and \$400 in unmarked bills on you right now, it's not happening.

*SARAH begins to dig in her purse.*

SARAH

I have of that all in my purse!

FINLEY

That was more hypothetical. It doesn't matter anyway. In the contract Slate signed, it states that once he starts the show, he has to be the one to complete it regardless of events such as family emergency, upset feet, brutal murder, or headache.

SARAH

Don't you think that's a little... absurd?

FINLEY

Legal cleared it, so it's good enough for me.

*HARVEY enters.*

HARVEY

Everyone!

*HARVEY claps to get their attention.*

HARVEY (CONT'D)

I just got a call from upper management. This show has to be on at three o'clock, and post team needs it at twelve. It is currently 11:02. That means we need to get started with round two immediately. The troupe has now performed the same skit six times and is using up half the foyer, so the audience is growing restless and wondering where we are.

KRISTEN

How are you going to explain that Slate isn't here to the entire audience.

TRISTEN

I don't know if you remember, but he was taken from us at 10:47 A.M. on June 3, 2022.

HARVEY

That's the key! We're not telling the audience because he has his two biggest fans to help him through!



TRISTEN

What are you talking about?

HARVEY

Do either of you have experience in ventriloquy?

KRISTEN

Slate went through a puppet phase...

TRISTEN

We've accustomed ourselves to the art.

HARVEY

Perfect, here's the plan: 9-Volt, record it. But don't get any close ups of Slate. We don't want the viewers at home to see through the charade. Finley, use as many audience participation signs as possible! Keep them engaged so they don't notice either. Tristen and Kristen, I'm going need you two to puppet your dead hero to the best of your ability. Gary, throw the hardest questions to Slate, and I mean harder than when Jenny Santino was one question away from winning quick cash. Make it look like he's losing for real. Ethel and Bill, play the game and don't suck. And everyone else, please go off set and don't kill anyone else! We just re-sat our studio audience, so they're rearing to go. All we have to do now is pull it off!

*The curtain shuts as FINLEY steps forward once again to address the audience.*

FINLEY

Hey, everyone! Did you miss us?

*FINLEY holds up a sign saying "YES".*

FINLEY (CONT'D)

Perfect! We have the set all ready to go for round two! Oh, and great news! Remember Slate? Well he's not actually dead nor did we ever believe he was. That's right, the brutal stab wounds you shouldn't pay attention to were not fatal nor do they exist! Think of it as "TV Magic"! Without further ado, here is round two of Season 14, Episode 7 of At Risk!

#### SCENE FIVE

*The curtain opens. Everyone should be behind their respective booths. SLATE should be face down on his, but quickly picked up and played off as if he was alive by TRISTEN and KRISTEN.*