

SCENES FOR MMP: Abigail's opening speech and Sloane's interruption

*(ABIGAIL enters with HENRY. She leads, he follows)*

ABIGAIL

Welcome, welcome, one and all, to my party! Tonight, we celebrate my recent business successes and have a little fun! Upstairs, there are a series of rooms in which you can play blackjack, as well as a room for commemorative photos! Feel free to engage in our casino, or dance with me and my husband.

*(An assistant plays a slow song. Abigail and Henry waltz. She leads, he follows. They spin. Abigail dips Henry. SLOANE runs on stage. Pushes past the assistant operating the music. Skips the slow song. Puts on her own song)*

SLOANE

BORING! You're being boring, Abby.

*(to the crowd)*

Hello~! My name is Sloane Xanders, Xanders with an X, and I am the darling, daring, delightful baby sister of Abigail here. She's being dreadfully boring. Isn't this supposed to be a party?? Come on, lets dance!

*(Sloane dances. It's bad. She drags people on stage. Engages the audience. She's charming and endearing, but not terribly talented. Abigail watches on in frustration. Sloane pulls her into a dance. Spins Henry. Pulls Casey into a dance. It's a PARTY, Y'ALL!)*

SLOANE

There's blackjack games upstairs as well as photo booth! Enjoy the night! Have fun, make merry, and most importantly, cast me in your shows!

SCENES FOR MMP: Jackson's body discovery speech

*(All suspects are hidden. JACKSON stabs ABIGAIL with **NO GUEST WITNESSES**. DANIEL watches from around the corner, unseen. Jackson and Daniel exit. Long beat. HENRY enters, calling for his wife. He finds her body. Beat. SCREAMS. Sobs. Makes a scene. Guests gather outside the theater. Jackson enters. The other suspects rush in)*

JACKSON

Oh, God. Okay. Alright. There seems to have been a murder. Abigail Dawson, our dear host (and employer) is dead..

HENRY

MY WIFE! WHO KILLED MY WIFE!

JACKSON

We will figure it out Henry. Don't you worry. Justice will be served..

*(to guests)*

Alright. We are going to investigate this murder. I'm counting on all of you to find out what has happened. Interrogate the people who were missing at the time of the murder.

*(The suspects all point to each other)*

JACKSON (cont.)

Ask as many questions as you need. Leave no stone unturned!

DANIEL

Bribes are.. also encouraged. Namely in the form of poker chips. I see you all have fancy golden poker chips on you. Those might be worth a pretty penny..

JACKSON

But those same chips will also be your method of voting for the MURDERER at the end of the night, so hold onto them. Now go! Investigate!

HENRY

PLEASE! Solve my dear wife's murder!

SCENES FOR MMP: Jackson beginning the vote

*(JACKSON enters, crosses to center stage)*

JACKSON

Welcome everyone, to the trial. Tonight, we are going to convict the murderer of Abigail Dawson, millionaire and hostess of tonight's party.

*(All suspects enter)*

JACKSON

These are our suspects. I'm going to allow each of them to make their case.

*(One by one, each suspect steps up to make their case. Improv in character your feelings on the night. Henry cries, Sloane giggles about the game, you know the drill. Daniel probably goes on a tirade about the absurdity of him being accused. We'll go in order of character sheets. Henry, Luce, Daniel, Sloane, Casey.)*

JACKSON

Now, we//

DANIEL

HOLD ON A MOMENT. How do we know you didn't do it?

JACKSON

Excuse me?

DANIEL

Where were YOU at the time of the murder, *Captain?*

JACKSON

I was taking care of the SHIP, thank you very much... Now. We vote. Place your voting chip in the box with the name of the suspect you believe to be the murderer.

SCENES FOR MMP: Henry's closing speech (correct ending)

*(HENRY enters. Sadly, reflectively. The rest of the suspects stand on stage, but off to the side)*

HENRY

Well, uh, thank you everyone for coming to our- my party... I'm so sorry about everything that's happened. I hope you had a fun night anyway! ... I hope you enjoyed yourselves. Now... if you'll excuse me... I have to figure out what to do with this yacht she bought. And the house... and the car... and the beach house in the Hamptons... and the apartment in Paris... and the private jet... oh God, what am I going to do without her?

*(DANIEL crosses to comfort Henry. The two cross to the side of the stage. Henry sobs. It's pretty loud. SLOANE crosses to center stage)*

SLOANE

HELLO EVERYONE! Me again, the most TALENTED and BEAUTIFUL of ALL the suspects in the *grizzly* murder of my wonderful sister, Abigail. Wasn't she a good sport? Speaking of Abigail... has anyone seen her recently? I kinda figured she'd show back up by now... Wasn't this murder mystery party she orchestrated just wonderful? Anyway, I've been Sloane Xanders, that's S-L-O-A-N-E...

*(Daniel starts clapping. The crowd starts clapping)*

SLOANE

Wait no, I'm not done! Contact my agent if you'd like to cast me in any of your productions! *(improv until lights go down)*

*(Lights down, lights back up. Bows with cast AND crew. I thank everyone for coming and congratulate everyone in the performance. That's a wrap everybody!)*

SCENES FOR MMP: Henry's closing speech with Jackson's second murder (incorrect ending)

*(HENRY enters. Sadly, reflectively. The rest of the suspects stand on stage, but off to the side)*

HENRY

Well, uh, thank you everyone for coming to our- my party... I'm so sorry about everything that's happened. I hope you had a fun night// anyway

*(Jackson crosses to Henry. Stabs him. Henry crumples to the ground. Beat. Jackson wipes sweat off his brow. For the first time all night, he's not cool, calm, and collected. He's running on pure emotion and adrenaline. There's a beat)*

JACKSON

THANK. GOD. I've been waiting to get rid of that fucking devil woman and her STUPID husband for YEARS!

*(Daniel crosses to Jackson. Punches him in the face)*

DANIEL

You've ruined EVERYTHING!

*(Luce crosses to Daniel. Punches him in the face. The two fight in the background. They chase each other out of the theater. Jackson faces the crowd again)*

JACKSON

Thank you so much for coming tonight. You were all instrumental in the... execution of my plan. Actually, can all my co-conspirators come onto stage? ...Yeah, everyone who received a note from me in their invitation, please come up here and help me celebrate!

*(Jackson and his people celebrate. Cheer. Kick Henry's body. Beat. SLOANE crosses to center stage)*

SLOANE

Well, that was fun! Theatrical, as we say in the theat-re. Well done everyone! Henry, come help me congratulate everyone on a murder mystery party well played! ...Henry? Hellooooo... He's probably just exhausted from the effort of solving the mystery. Thank you everyone for coming! Contact my agent to cast me!

*(Sloane celebrates with Jackson. High fives him. High fives Henry's corpse. Lights down. Guests are ushered offstage. Lights back up. Bows with cast AND crew. I thank everyone for coming and congratulate everyone in the performance. That's a wrap everybody!)*