

# Influence

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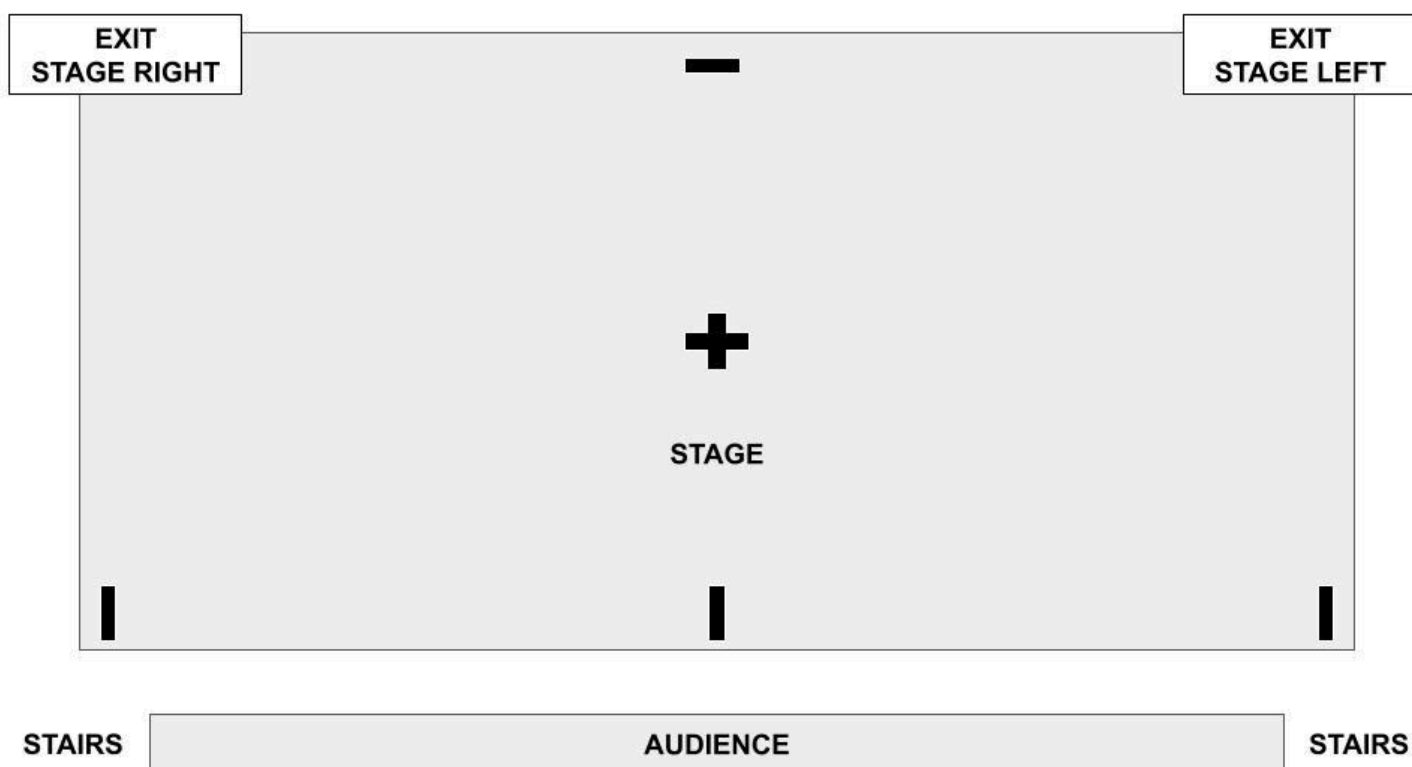
## FOREWORD

*'Influence' is a comedy satire exploring the absurdities of social media culture and the extremes people will go to for online validation.*

*When a group of online influencers are invited to a remote island with the promise of an exclusive deal worth millions by CrowdAp, the world's most powerful social media platform, they all seize the opportunity. Expecting a weekend full of luxury and fun, they arrive eager to impress, only to discover they are to be housed in a single room as part of a high-stakes experiment, designed to push them to their limits. As the challenges begin, alliances form and conflicts erupt, blurring the line between their curated online personas and their real selves.*

This play was inspired by the role-play sessions with the Highgate Orange Company of 2024-25. Using the 'Role That Dice' system, the pupils explored an immersive world in an improvised drama setting. Through this process the pupils created the characters, lines and narrative for this play.

## STAGING DIAGRAM - JACKSONS LANE THEATRE



## **SCENE 1: CROWDAP CHANNELS.**

**As the audience enter the theatre, the INFLUENCERS are sat on stage, miming as they create content.**

**A single spotlight illuminates downstage centre, as the INFLUENCERS freeze.**

**WENDY WATSON, the charismatic CEO of CrowdAp, strides confidently into the spotlight.**

### **WENDY**

Influence is a powerful commodity.

And in this digital age, attention is the currency of our economy.

Likes. Follows. Shares - these represent power.

The creators. The innovators - those with the ability to capture your attention with a single post.

**(gestures towards the shadowed figures of the influencers)**

These individuals are among the brightest stars of social media today.

This weekend, on a secret island getaway, they'll compete for the ultimate prize!

A multi-million-pound contract to become the face of CrowdAp,

The most powerful social media platform in the world.

They'll face challenges designed to test their influence.

So without further ado - let's meet the contestants!

**WENDY returns upstage and freezes.**

**The DIBBIDIDOO SOLVERS come centre stage, exploding into life.**

### **EMPANADA**

Welcome followers to The Dibbididoo Solvers!

Your number-one source for the truth that *they* don't want you to know!

### **SOPHIE**

On tonight's stream, we will continue untangling the web of *lies* that is NASA.

### **JOY**

I hate to break it to ya normies!

The moon landings weren't real people!

And we will provide undeniable evidence to prove it!

### **SOPHIE**

They've put it right in front of us!

The first man on the moon - Neil Armstrong.

Neil A - now spell it backwards.

**SOPHIE spells it out onto a whiteboard.**

**SOPHIE**

A-L-I-E-N

**(flips whiteboard)**

Alien!

Coincidence? I don't think so!

**EMPANADA**

Brace yourselves, cos that's not all!

In the second part of tonight's stream - we're tackling the biggest cover-up of them all.

Flat Earth and "Globe" propaganda!

**JOY**

We've got the "science" that *they* don't want you to see!

Really, think about it - if the Earth were round, why hasn't the water fallen off?

**SOPHIE**

The moonlanding hoax!

Flat Earth!

Area 51!

We're covering it all!

**JOY**

Experiments, photos, and testimonials.

Undeniable evidence for all the *non-believers* out there!

**EMPANADA**

So put on your tin foil hats!

And let's explore some more conspiracy facts!

**DIBBIDIDOO SOLVERS freeze for a beat then exit.**

**SWIFTIE SISTERS explode into life.**

**SWIFTIE SISTERS**

Welcome Swiftie Sisters!

**ROSIE**

OMG, Swifties, tonight I'm showing you my *official* Taylor Swift boots.

She *actually* wore these.

She *actually* touched these!

**ISABELLA**

And I'll prove - PROVE - that Taylor Swift and I are *actual* blood relatives.  
Our DNA test results have arrived!  
And on tonight's stream we will be revealing them!

**CHAR**

Hey, Swifties!  
Tonight, we continue to explore the depth of Taylor's lyrics.  
"It's me, hi, I'm the problem, it's me!"  
There's a lot more layers to what the spiritual mother is telling us!

**EVIE**

And some Tay-rrefic news, Swiftie clan!  
We've been invited to the CrowdAp Challenge!  
So get ready, because we're here to shake it off and shake things up!

**SWIFTIE SISTERS freeze for a beat then exits.**

**XTREME STREAM explodes into life.**

**JJ**

Yo, my people!  
Welcome back to the Xtreme Stream!

**XTREME STREAM**

Xtreme!

**JJ**

It's me, JJ, and once again, we're taking things to the *next* level.  
We're talking stunts so extreme, they're borderline illegal.  
Parkour!

**JJ jumps into a roll and then strikes a pose before wincing.**

**JJ**

Ouch. I totally nailed it.

**XTREME STREAM**

Xtreme!

**JOSH**

Yo, it's your boy Josh here!  
And as usual I do the craziest, most random stuff.  
Like, tonight I am gonna eat five tubs of ice cream in less than an hour!  
With no spoon!

**XTREME STREAM**

Xtreme!

**JACK**

Jack the lad here!

**JJ and JOSH**

Lad!

**JACK**

I'm here with a public service announcement.  
Make sure you stay tuned throughout the night,  
Because after the ice-cream challenge, we're breaking into a zoo!  
Let's see if flamingos can skateboard!

**XTREME STREAM**

Xtreme!

**JOSH**

CrowdAp has never seen a trio as epic as us.  
We're legends!

**JJ**

Josh is wild, Jack's flashy and me, JJ, I'm the brains of this operation.

**JACK**

Together, we're unstoppable.  
And, we're proud to represent you - our loyal followers!

**XTREME STREAM freeze for a beat then exit.**

**BEAUTY GLOW explodes into life.**

**BEAUTY GLOW**

Welcome back to Beauty Glow!

## **SUMMER**

Hey, Glow-getters!

It's your girl Summer.

Remember: if you're not glowing, you're practically invisible.

## **AMELIA**

**(sarcastically)**

Great - today we're... putting on makeup - again! Yay!

Because there's nothing more exciting than contouring for the tenth time this week!

## **SUMMER**

**(turns to AMELIA with mock horror)**

Are you wearing yesterday's foundation?

No worries hun, I'll fix you up!

## **SUMMER begins applying make up to AMELIA**

## **AMELIA**

**(turns to the camera, deadpan)**

Stay tuned everyone.

Things are about to get... thrilling!

## **ELLA**

Right my Glow-getters, on tonight's stream,

I'll be showing you how to create a look that screams - "all eyes on me"

Seriously, my phone won't stop with all your friend requests!

But don't worry, I'll make sure I message you all back!

**(to the camera, overly sweet)**

Just kidding!

## **MIA**

Welcome back, everyone, it's Mia.

I wanted to start tonight's stream by reminding you that beauty is also about *inner* confidence.

We talk a lot on this channel about products and trends,

But remember, it's *always* okay to just be yourself.

You know, self-compassion is the *ultimate* glow.

## **SUMMER + ELLA**

Okay!

**BEAUTY GLOW freeze for a beat then exits.**

**HEY THERE HUSKIES** explode into life.

**ZOE**

Welcome to Hey There Huskies!

**IZZY**

As always, we're bringing you the cutest dog content and best tips!

**OLIVIA**

We're here to help you become the kind of owner your pets deserve.  
One they'll truly love and trust.

**ZOE**

Training tip number one.

**ALL**

Stay consistent!

**ZOE**

Sit.

Maxi, I said sit!

**(pauses with a stern look at Maxi)**

Good girl.

**EMMA**

Here you go, Maxi!

She loves her new toy!

Isn't it adorable?

Get yours now!

Click the link below and enter the discount code "Hey There Huskie" for ten percent off!

**(sniffs the toy)**

Smells like happiness.

**ZOE**

You know, sometimes I think Maxi trains us more than we train her!

**EMMA**

She's got us wrapped around her paw, and honestly?

I'm fine with that.

**IZZY**

Training tip number two:



**ALL**

Clean up!

**IZZY**

A good owner always cleans up after their pet.  
And yes, that includes the wet poos too.

**OLIVIA**

We'd do anything for Maxi.  
She's not just a dog - she's family.  
Remember everyone - a dog isn't just for Christmas!

**ALL**

It's for life!

**HEY THERE HUSKIES freeze for a beat then exit.**

**SPY FI explodes into life.**

**SALLY**

Good evening, Spy-Fi agents!

**STORM**

Welcome you back to the forefront of digital truth.

**SALLY**

Tonight we're diving deeper into the systems that control us.  
The things they don't want you to know.

**STORM**

Stay tuned and you'll learn who's really pulling the strings.

**SALLY**

Our mission is to keep exposing the algorithms that drive the influence economy.

**STORM**

Did you know your phone is recording and analysing every move you make?

**SALLY**

Facial recognition.  
Behavioral metrics.  
Hidden data trackers.

**STORM**

Every click, every swipe, every like - feeds the machine.

**SALLY**

We're not here to appease the machine.

**STORM**

We're here to dismantle it.

**SALLY**

So, Spy-Fi Nation, stay tuned.

**STORM**

And we'll show you how to break free!

**BLACKOUT**

## **SCENE 2: HOTEL GLAMROCKS. EXT. MORNING.**

**ALFRED** sits drinking a mug of tea, looking out at the audience with a wry, weary expression.

**ALFRED**

You know, there was a time when influence meant something.

It meant you'd done something - something proper.

Maybe you were a doctor or a teacher.

And like everything else in today's digital world - that's gone.

Nowadays, you can pout into a camera, while flogging teeth whiteners and call it a career.

**(scoffs)**

"Content creators"

As if they're building something.

They prance about with their ring lights and selfie sticks,

Thinking they're revolutionising society because they managed to film themselves making a pancake.

Talking all day and night, on digital screens, to faceless followers.

Everything's streaming.

And it's all fully curated for you.

The algorithm knows what you like - even when you don't.

That's the future.

And if that doesn't terrify you -

**ASHLEY** enters, charging in, clutching a clipboard.

**ASHLEY**

Mr Alfred!

**(standing over ALFRED)**

The guests will be arriving soon!

The bins need emptying, the floors need wiping, the windows polished -

Oh, and there appears to be a dead seagull in the lobby, left by one of the cats.

**ALFRED**

Ah, that's the circle of life.

Beautiful, isn't it?

**ASHLEY**

It's disgusting!

What will the guests think if the first thing they see is a bird carcass?

**ALFRED**

Probably the same thing they'll think when they discover,

This "luxury retreat" only has one working toilet.

**ASHLEY**

(serious)

Let me be clear with you, Mr Alfred.

This hotel of yours is in a *terrible* state, but my client believes it is perfect for our project.

So *you* have an opportunity here to make a *lot* of money.

**ALFRED**

Well, my ol' man used to say -

“When opportunity knocks, let’s hope the door doesn't fall off its hinges!”

**ASHLEY**

Enough jokes!

Look, if you don't sort it out,

I swear I'll -

**ALFRED**

Fine, fine.

I'll deal with the seagull.

**ASHLEY**

Good.

And after that, take out the bins!

**ALFRED**

Maybe I should've opened a funeral parlour.

At least the customers *there*, don't complain!

**ALFRED and ASHLEY exit the stage.**

**SCENE 3: HOTEL GLAMROCKS. BANQUET ROOM. INT. MORNING.**

**THE INFLUENCERS** begin to arrive in their groups, their personalities clashing almost immediately. **HEY THERE HUSKIES** are the first to arrive, struggling with all their bags.

**ZOE**

Maxi, you're just going to love this place.  
So much space for you to run around -

**ZOE stops abruptly, noticing the awful state of the hotel.**

**ZOE**

O-M-G.

**EMMA**

This place doesn't look very safe!  
Are we absolutely sure this is the right hotel?

**IZZY holds up the invitation.**

**IZZY**

Look, that's what it says right here:  
A luxury weekend at Hotel Glamrocks!

**OLIVIA**

Glamrocks?!  
Smells more like Hotel Damp Socks!

**IZZY**

Yeah - sorry!  
My socks got completely soaked on the boat ride!

**OLIVIA**

Well, I'm not exactly feeling the luxury vibes I was expecting.  
I mean, I wasn't asking for a personal butler and a chocolate fountain,  
But I also wasn't expecting... whatever this is.

**(looks around, unimpressed)**

This place looks like a crime scene!  
The wallpaper is clinging to the walls.  
The carpet looks like it's been through a messy breakup.  
And I'm pretty sure that chandelier is coming down if you fart hard enough!

**IZZY**

It's got a "rustic charm" -

**ZOE**

Rustic Charm?

This place looks like it has never seen a Hoover!

**EMMA**

Or a mop!

If this is what they're calling luxury,

I'd hate to see their budget option!

**IZZY**

Let's not panic, shall we?

Maybe the inside just needs a little... TLC.

**OLIVIA**

T.L.C?

**(pointing downstage right and out to audience)**

There's a hole in the wall!

**EMMA, IZZY and ZOE join OLIVIA downstage right.**

**IZZY**

You're right.

I don't think any amount of T.L.C is going to fix that.

**XTREME STREAM bursts in, loud and energetic.**

**JOSH**

**(jumping into the space, arms wide open)**

Yooooooooo!

This place is definitely haunted bros!

**JJ puts his arms around HEY THERE HUSKIES, squeezing their heads together.**

**JJ**

Totes haunted!

I swear, I just saw the creepiest-looking caretaker dude walking by...

With a dead seagull in his pocket!

**JOSH**

That's creepy bro - look I got da goosebumps!

**JACK points dramatically to the side of the room.**

**JACK**

Broooooos!

Look at this staircase!

You know what I'm thinking?

**JJ**

Oh, I know what you're thinking Jack!

**ALL**

XTREME PARKOUR!

**IZZY**

Are you seriously about to jump off that?

**JACK**

Uh, yeah?

It's like, what we do.

**ZOE**

Well, if you break your leg, make sure you stream it.

I'm sure your followers will love that.

**XTREME STREAM are stunned for a second then in unison.**

**ALL**

Savage!

**THE SWIFTIE SISTERS storm in.**

**CHAR**

I *hate* boats!

**(moving downstage)**

And, I am never taking another boat ride!

I swear on Taylor!

**ROSIE, ISABELLA and EVIE react in complete horrified shock, inhaling in.**

**ROSIE**

Did you just swear on Tay Tay?!

**CHAR**

I did.

**ROSIE**

**(pointing)**

How *could* you?!

Take it back!

**CHAR**

**(arms folded)**

I won't.

**ISABELLA**

Come on, the boat ride wasn't all bad.

I mean the boatman was lovely?

**EVIE**

I don't think he understood a word we were saying!

**ISABELLA**

But, he did know all the lyrics to "You Belong With Me".

So he's officially my favourite person on this trip so far!

**BEAUTY GLOW storms in, dragging an extra large suitcase.**

**AMELIA**

I'm exhausted.

**SUMMER**

Same!

My glow is definitely low!

**SUMMER is interrupted when she sees HEY THERE HUSKIES.**

**SUMMER**

O-M-G.

**HEY THERE HUSKIES**

O-M-G!



**HEY THERE HUSKIES and BEAUTY GLOW** move to centre stage, exchanging exaggerated air kisses and overly dramatic hugs, their smiles wide but visibly forced.

**ZOE**

We didn't know you guys would be here!

**AMELIA**

Us either!

**(sarcastically noticing Maxi)**

Wow, Maxi's grown!

Did she get a new software update or...

**ELLA**

**(checking her compact mirror, horrified)**

Uh - my glow is *literally* non-existent!

**AMELIA**

**(mock gasp)**

Maybe you should do an emergency stream,

"How to stay "glow" when travelling."

**MIA**

Girls, you really should just eat something?

Like, actual food?

**SUMMER & ELLA**

**(sarcastic teasing)**

Okay!

**OLIVIA**

This place is literally falling apart.

**IZZY**

**(pointing)**

Look here.

There's literally a hole in the fourth wall.

**BEAUTY GLOW + HEY THERE HUSKIES** gather down-stage right by the hole in the wall.

Enter **SPY-FI**. They are calm, composed and stand in a heroic pose centre-stage.

**STORM** kneels, runs a finger across the floor, inspects the dust.

**STORM**

Hope you all didn't sign any waivers.  
This place is a lawsuit waiting to happen.

**The ENSEMBLE is silent, confused and nervous.**

**SALLY**

**(pointing at the cameras)**

As expected, Agent Storm.  
Hidden cameras everywhere.

**STORM**

Let's start with the hole in the wall.  
Ask yourselves, who might be watching us?

**JJ**

Millions of online viewers?  
Isn't that the point?

**JACK**

Duh!

**JOSH**

Burn!

**SALLY**

**(standing over them)**

Cute.

**(kneeling)**

No doubt there's a group of weird middle aged people on the other side of this wall.

**A beat, before DIBBIDIDOO SOLVERS, wide-eyed and buzzing with excitement.  
EMPANADA with a slow clap.**

**EMPANADA**

Not a bad theory, Spy-Fi Agents.  
However, this island has a much darker past.  
You see, it is *actually* a former government site,  
Used for mind control experiments in the seventies.

**JOY**

The location matches *all* the key markers for declassified government projects.

**SOPHIE**

I expect they're probably still using subliminal frequencies, even now.

**JOY**

Solvers, we need to stay vigilant.

They can't control our thoughts if we follow the protocols.

**The trio fix their tinfoil hats firmly on their heads.**

**ASHLEY enters awkwardly, holding a clipboard and pen.**

**ASHLEY**

Hello.

Excuse me!

**(awkward wave)**

Hi...

**The INFLUENCERS turn to ASHLEY in silence.**

**ASHLEY**

**(every gesture is as if practised)**

Good morning and welcome everyone to Hotel Glamrocks!!

I'm sure you're all exhausted and wanting to get settled.

So without further ado, I'm thrilled to introduce your host for this event.

The CEO of CrowdAp, Wendy Watson!

**The ENSEMBLE reacts with excitement.**

**ASHLEY performs a dance as WENDY enters.**

**ASHLEY**

Go Wendy!

Go, go!

Go Wendy!

Go, go -

**WENDY**

**(disgusted)**

Stop that, Ashley.

**ASHLEY stops awkwardly.**

**WENDY**

Welcome Influencers!

This weekend is about innovation, connection, and redefining influence.

You've been selected because you represent the *loudest* voices on our platform.

**WENDY moves downstage, looking outward to the audience.**

**WENDY**

For the next forty-eight hours you'll all be housed together in this room.

**ALL**

What?!

**WENDY**

That's right - all of you.

All living together in one room.

Real, raw, *measurable* influence.

And, there's just one rule.

No one can leave.

**The influencers react immediately with gasps, protests, and a few awkward laughs.**

**ELLA**

Wait?

Does this mean no en-suite?

**ZOE**

What about pets?

Maxi is very sensitive to strangers.

Is she allowed to bunk with us?

**EMPANADA**

One room?

Wait, are we being monitored the *whole* time?

**WENDY**

Of course - that's the point.

Every word, every interaction, unfiltered.

**MIA**

But we didn't sign up for *this*?

**ASHLEY**

That's not quite true.  
You've all signed a disclaimer.

**ISABELLA**

So, we're just... what?  
Lab rats?  
Is that it?

**JOSH**

And, what happens if we don't want to take part in this experiment?

**WENDY**

Should anyone feel this challenge is too much for them, they *can* leave.  
*But* - it will come at a cost.  
All content from your channels will be deleted,  
And you will be blacklisted from the CrowdAp platform for life.

**SOPHIE**

That's quite the cost!

**MIA**

But if we stay?  
What's the cost then?

**ROSIE**

What happens to those who don't win?

**WENDY leans forward slightly, her tone sharp and pointed.**

**WENDY**

That depends entirely on you.  
By tomorrow evening, the influencers with the highest social score,  
Will win a CrowdAp Ambassadors contract - worth millions of dollars!  
I will be in touch soon - best of luck!

**ASHLEY**

Best of luck!

**WENDY leaves, swiftly followed by ASHLEY.**

**ISABELLA**

Is this some kind of joke?

**(looking around, cringing.)**

This... can't be real.

**JOSH**

This weekend is going to be awesome!

**STORM**

An interesting choice of room.

It looks like it is supposed to be a banqueting hall.

**EVIE**

**(moving downstage, looking outward)**

I guess they've never heard of an interior designer.

**AMELIA**

It clearly hasn't been used for years.

Kinda feels like a dungeon!

**SUMMER sneezes dramatically, waving the dust away.**

**SUMMER**

I'm allergic to places that look like this!

**JACK**

**(joining EVIE)**

Whoaaa, I think this is a stage?

Yo JJ, perform something?

**JJ**

**(leaping into the role theatrically)**

"To pee, or not to pee, that is the question"

But seriously, I'm bustin'!

Where's the toilet?

**EMMA**

**(rolling her eyes.)**

I think it's this room round here.

**JJ disappears off stage.**

**IZZY**

**(holding up her phone, scowling)**

What!

I've got no Wi-Fi.

No bars at all.

**SALLY**

A classic power move.

Well played, Wendy Watson!

**The group settles down, looking at one another, unease filling the space.**

**After a moment's thought, MIA breaks the silence.**

**MIA**

So... what do we do?

Is anyone actually thinking of leaving?

**AMELIA**

What, and give up the opportunity to be a multi-millionaire?

No chance!

**ELLA**

Besides, you heard the rules.

If we leave, we get deplatformed.

**CHAR**

Cancelled.

**OLIVIA**

Deleted.

**JACK**

Do you think they'd actually... delete our channels?

Like, completely?

**ROSIE**

How would our followers ever be able to carry on their lives without us?

**ZOE**

Just imagine losing everything!

All our content.

**JOY**

I'm not buying it!  
They want us scared.  
That's the point, isn't it?  
Easier to manipulate that way.

**SOPHIE**

So... none of us are leaving?

**The group looks at one another. No one says anything, but the tension in the room is palpable. They all know the truth but don't want to admit it aloud.**

**EMPANADA**

What now then?

**JOY**

I guess... we just wait.

**The group falls silent pondering their situation.**

**The sound of a toilet flushing, as JJ re-enters the stage.**

**JJ**

**(sheepishly)**

Yeah, erm, probably best if no one goes to the toilet for about 30 minutes...

**BLACKOUT**



**SCENE 4: HOTEL GLAMROCKS. BASEMENT. INT.**

**WENDY** stands in a spotlight downstage left, holding a large remote, flicking between camera angles as she watches the influencers from her secret control room.

**ASHLEY** enters, holding a drink for **WENDY**, who keeps her eyes fixed on the screen. **WENDY** takes one sip and abruptly spits it out in a dramatic spray, drenching **ASHLEY** in the process. **ASHLEY** flinches, frozen.

**WENDY**  
Ashley?!

**ASHLEY**  
(wiping her face)  
Yes, Miss Watson?

**WENDY**  
(leaning in to intimidate her)  
What - Is - This?

**ASHLEY**  
Your *tea*?

**WENDY**  
And what *brand of tea* did you use when brewing it?

**ASHLEY**  
(nervous)  
The... the tea they had in the hotel kitchen.  
P.G Tips - I think?

**WENDY**  
P.G Tips?!  
How many times must I tell you Ashley?!  
I drink *only* Yorkshire Gold.

**ASHLEY**  
I - I'm sorry, Miss Watson!  
I'll... I'll brew you another, right away!

**WENDY**  
Bring biscuits, Ashley - Hobnobs!

**ASHLEY**

Right away, Miss Watson.

**ASHLEY exits in a flurry,**

**WENDY resumes surveying the cameras.**

**ALFRED enters hesitantly, clutching a letter.**

**ALFRED**

I didn't expect to find you here, Miss Watson.

Ya know, this is actually a store cupboard.

I'm not sure it's safe down here -

**WENDY continues surveying the cameras, ignoring ALFRED.**

**WENDY**

What did you want Alfred?

**ALFRED**

I wanted to talk about your offer.

**WENDY**

Of course.

**(noticing the letter)**

Let me guess - you're here to tell me no.

**ALFRED**

It's not that I don't appreciate the offer.

It's just...

**ALFRED hesitates, glancing down at the letter in his hands.**

**ALFRED**

This hotel - she's my passion project.

I bought it, hoping to turn it into a retreat.

Somewhere people could come to relax, escape, reconnect with nature.

**WENDY**

How quaint.

**ALFRED**

It may not look like much now, but it has potential.  
I just... I'm not ready to let it go.

**WENDY**

Potential, Alfred, won't pay the bills.

**(takes out her cheque book and pen)**

So let me simplify this decision for you.

**WENDY begins writing on the cheque, her movements deliberate. Tearing it out, she hands it to ALFRED without a word. ALFRED glances at the amount and gasps softly, his face a mix of shock and disbelief.**

**ALFRED**

This... this is nearly ten times the price I paid for it?

**WENDY**

So we have a deal?

**ALFRED stares at the cheque, the conflict in his eyes.**

**ALFRED**

Okay - we have a deal.

**WENDY**

Splendid.

I'll have Ashley prepare the paperwork, ready for your signature.

**(gestures toward the door, her tone sharp)**

Now, if you'll excuse me, the first challenge is about to begin.

**ALFRED nods slowly, clutching the cheque as he walks toward the door. He pauses briefly, glancing back at WENDY, who is already focused on the monitors again.**

**ALFRED exits, leaving WENDY alone in the control room.**

**SCENE 5: HOTEL GLAMROCKS. BANQUET ROOM. INT. LATE AFTERNOON..**

**THE INFLUENCERS** are scattered across the space frozen in tableaux as the sound of a ticking clock fills the room. They cycle through a series of freeze frames, depicting them bored and waiting, showing signs of frustration from their boredom.

The ticking clock grows louder and then suddenly stops as the lights come up.

**ZOE**

Six hours!

Six hours, and still not a word... nothing.

**(sighing)**

Uhhh - I'm so bored!

**JACK**

I'm soooo hungry!

**EMPANADA** is rocking back and forth, paranoid.

**JOSH**

I mean... is no one else seeing this?

We're just... what?

Ignoring it?

Sorry, but your friend is freaking me out?

**(approaches EMPANADA and kneels beside her)**

Bro, everything's going to be okay?

Okay?

**EMPANADA**

**(paranoid)**

They're watching us.

Every second.

Every breath.

Waiting for us to crack.

And maybe, just maybe - some of us already have.

But I'm built for this.

Sitting.

Waiting

**SALLY** is typing furiously on her laptop.

**SALLY**

I'm trying to gain access to their WiFi router.  
But, it's locked down tighter than a bank vault.  
This firewall is insane.

**STORM**

It's military-grade.  
They're definitely hiding something.

**SUMMER**

We've had no explanation.  
No food and there's no Wi-Fi!

**ELLA**

No Wi-Fi is the cruelest of punishments!  
**(Spins around, eyes wide with mock horror.)**  
Do they even understand what they've done?  
What if I'm missing out on something?  
What if I'm trending and I don't even know it?!  
What if someone posts a horrible picture of me and I can't even untag myself?!

**STORM**

**(sarcastic)**  
I guess we'll have to do something truly radical...  
Like, talk to each other!

**IZZY**

**(sighing)**  
Maxi's really struggling with this all.  
Poor girl - she gets so nervous.  
**(strokes the robot dog)**  
It's okay, Maxi, you're safe.

**EMMA**

Yeah, she doesn't like all this tension.  
And, Maxi hates when people are *moaning*.  
Don't you girl?

**SOPHIE**

I've had enough of this *charade*.  
The entire content base for your channel is ridiculous!  
You do realise that Maxi is not real?

**OLIVIA**

**(offended)**

Excuse me?

**JOY**

Your “dog” - Maxi is a robot.

She’s not “struggling” - she’s probably just rebooting!

She’s a toy!

**HEY THERE HUSKIES react in an exaggerated shock.**

**OLIVIA**

**(offended)**

Maxi is *not* a robot or a toy!

Anyway, no one cares what *conspiracy theorists* think!

**ZOE**

Yeah - take off the tinfoil hat and join reality!

**JOSH**

Reality?!

Sorry to break it to you all!

But, that thing is totally like a toy robot.

**JJ**

You can *hear* the motor when she moves!

**ZOE**

**(defensive)**

That’s ridiculous - Maxi is not a toy robot!

She’s a dog. A real dog.

She’s smart, loyal, and better than most of the people in this room!

**The ENSEMBLE collectively gasps in an exaggerated, theatrical shock.**

**JACK**

Yeah, bet she’s really “loyal.”

Right up until her batteries die!

**SOPHIE**

Maybe she needs a software update?

Have you tried switching her on and off?

**XTREME STREAM**

Burn!

**OLIVIA**

You're all just jealous!

Probably because Maxi is more famous and loved than any of your fake channels!

**The ENSEMBLE collectively gasps in an even more exaggerated, theatrical shock.**

**AMELIA**

Loved?

She's a glorified remote control.

**The ENSEMBLE draw out a playful, exaggerated "Oooo", their voices rising in unison.**

**ZOE**

Take that back!

**The room erupts into chaos as the ENSEMBLE's voices overlap, defending or mocking MAXI. Finally, MIA cuts through the chaos and the group falls silent.**

**MIA**

**(Sharply)**

Enough!

Enough!

Alright, enough!

If we're going to be living together for the next two days,

We need to start showing some kindness and respect to one another!

**The ENSEMBLE, stunned for a beat, suddenly burst into laughter, pointing at MIA.**

**JJ**

Kindness?

**JOSH**

Respect?

**JACK**

No chance, we're here to win!

**ISABELLA**

Look, maybe we could... I don't know,  
Play a game to pass the time?

**ROSIE**

**(rolling her eyes)**

A game?  
Seriously?  
What are we like, seven years old or something?

**EVIE**

I know!  
How about that game -  
**(thinking)**  
What's it called - "Two Truths: One Lie".

**ROSIE**

**(excited)**  
Oh I actually like that game!  
Can I go first?

**CHAR**

**(annoyed)**  
I thought you didn't want to play the game, *Rosie!*

**ROSIE**

**(annoyed)**  
Well, I *can* change my mind!  
You know, we live in a *free* world!

**DIBBIDIDOO SOLVERS**

Well - actually!

**The room descends into chaos again, voices overlapping as the INFLUENCERS hurl insults and jabs at one another, with fingers pointing and exaggerated gestures filling the stage.**

**Suddenly, the booming voice of WENDY crackles through the loudspeaker.**

**WENDY (via LOUDSPEAKER)**

Good evening, contestants!



The room freezes mid-argument. A comical tableaux forms as each influencer is caught in their exaggerated anger – fingers still pointed, mouths agape, and postures frozen mid-gesture. The silence lingers for an awkward beat, amplifying the absurdity of the moment.

**WENDY (via LOUDSPEAKER)**

Good news - your first challenge is about to begin!

Challenge One: *The Viral Moment*.

Your aim is to *captivate* your audience.

Each group will now receive a description of your viral task.

**ASHLEY enters briskly, holding a stack of envelopes. She distributes them to each group.**

**WENDY (via LOUDSPEAKER)**

You have just one minute to plan, after which you will deliver your content.

The group with the most engagement will win and be immune from tonight's elimination.

**INFLUENCERS**

Elimination?!

**The INFLUENCERS exchange alarmed looks, murmuring in confusion and dread, and then quickly huddle together, speaking in hushed but frantic tones as they read their challenges.**

**WENDY (via LOUDSPEAKER)**

Thank you, contestants.

It's time for – "Viral Moment."

Up first... Xtreme Stream!

**XTREME STREAM**

**The group bounds onto the stage, hyping themselves up with exaggerated enthusiasm.**

**Their challenge: a slapstick routine involving mock stage-combat.**

**They deliver an over-the-top performance, involving poorly timed punches, cartoonish slaps, and it ends with an exaggerated kick to the face.**

**Every move is performed in exaggerated pain, accompanied by dramatic groans and gasps.**

**At the climax, they groan in unison, hold up enthusiastic thumbs-ups, and pose as if they've just conquered the world, before they stumble offstage.**

**WENDY (via LOUDSPEAKER)**

Up next, The Dibbididoo Solvers!

### **DIBBIDIDOO SOLVERS**

They enter, wearing cardboard boxes decorated to resemble astronaut helmets.

Their challenge: parodying the moon landing.

They launch into a reenactment of the moon landing, performed entirely in slow motion.

They mimic planting a flag, bouncing in low gravity, and fumbling with their “space suits.”

The group freezes in a triumphant pose before they dramatically announce:

### **EMPANADA**

And that’s how NASA fooled the world!

### **JOY**

The moon landings – brought to you by Hollywood!

### **SOPHIE**

And, *actually* filmed in Canada!

### **WENDY (via LOUDSPEAKER)**

Next up, The Swiftie Sisters!

### **SWIFTIE SISTERS**

They rush onstage as Taylor Swift’s “Shake It Off” begins to play.

They perform a perfectly synchronized dance routine with exaggerated seriousness.

Their faces are comically intense as they nail every move with military precision.

They finish in a dramatic group pose, panting for breath, before exiting.

### **WENDY (via LOUDSPEAKER)**

And now, Beauty Glow!

### **BEAUTY GLOW**

They enter as ‘Had A Bad Day’ plays.

Their challenge: a silent mime performance, the performance is comically overdramatic.

SUMMER + ELLA mime bullying MIA, mock-pushing her and miming cruel laughter.

MIA sits on the sofa, looking dejected.

AMELIA mimes offering her kindness with an oversized makeup brush.

MIA “transforms,” miming an exaggerated application of “inner beauty.”

AMELIA flings glitter into the air and strikes a heroic pose, radiating newfound confidence.

The group freezes in a triumphant tableaux.

### **WENDY (via LOUDSPEAKER)**

And next up – Hey There Huskies!

## **HEY THERE HUSKIES**

**They stride onstage, carrying MAXI.**

**The iconic opening music from ‘The Lion King’ begins to play.**

**ZOE lifts MAXI above her head like Simba while standing on the sofa.**

**IZZY, OLIVIA, and EMMA bow dramatically, mimicking the animals from the iconic scene.**

**The performance ends with the group holding their pose as the music swells.**

**WENDY (via LOUDSPEAKER)**

**And last up – Spy-Fi!**

## **SPY-FI**

**They enter as ‘The Pink Panther’ theme tune begins to play.**

**A single spotlight reveals SALLY, dressed as a detective, nose buried in an oversized book.**

**Behind her, STORM, dressed as a burglar, creeps onto the stage, attempting to steal her briefcase. A classic game of cat-and-mouse unfolds as STORM hides in increasingly ridiculous places; behind the sofa, under a rug, behind the hat rack, while SALLY remains utterly oblivious, too engrossed in her book. STORM freezes every time SALLY glances up, striking absurd hiding poses in plain sight. The routine builds to a climax when STORM hides directly behind SALLY, mirroring her movements. Finally, they turn and come face-to-face, gasping in shock.**

**The lights come up.**

**WENDY (via LOUDSPEAKER)**

**Contestants, thank you all for your fantastic contributions.**

**The public is now voting!**

**(pause)**

**Your next task can be found in the box behind the sofa.**

**The INFLUENCERS exchange uneasy glances.**

**JOY finds the box and drags it downstage centre, the others quickly crowding around.**

**JOY opens the letter inside the box and reads.**

**JOY**

*Task Two: Fuel the Hype.*

**Contestants for this challenge, you need to create an advert selling our new energy drink!**

**JOY lifts the lid, revealing rows of energy drink bottles.**

**JJ**  
**(grabbing a bottle)**  
I love this stuff!

**JJ downs a whole bottle in one.**

**JOSH**  
**(curious)**  
Bro?

**JJ**  
**(excited)**  
BRO!

**JACK**  
**(curiously excited)**  
BRO?!

**JOSH and JACK grab a bottle each, twist off the caps, and down them in seconds.**

**XTREME STREAM**  
BRO!

**AMELIA**  
**(reading over JOY's shoulder)**  
We have to create a 10 second advert.  
Including a unique slogan for the product 'Power Surge'.

**MIA**  
Power Surge!  
This could be fun!

**SUMMER**  
Already in full marketing mode.

**ROSIE**  
Looks yummy!

**EMMA**  
Do we even know what's in this?

**EMPANADA**

If it works, do we really care?

**SOPHIE**

It's probably just full of caffeine, like every other energy drink!

**STORM**

**(examining the label).**

No listed ingredients.

**SALLY**

That's... unusual.

**CHAR**

Oh, relax, it's just a drink.

**ELLA**

Yeah, what's the worst that can happen?

**CHAR**

How do we make *this* sell?

**EVIE**

We need a unique angle, Swifties!

**ISABELLA**

Taylor once said, "nothing safe is worth the drive,"

So buckle up Swifties - we're about to go full speed with no brakes!

**The INFLUENCERS react, collectively, and FREEZE.**

**SCENE 6: HOTEL GLAMROCKS. BASEMENT. INT.**

**WENDY** stands admiring the screens.

**ASHLEY** stands beside her, arms crossed, watching the screens intently.

**WENDY**

Look at them.

Absolutely humiliating themselves.

**ASHLEY**

And not a single one of them dares to leave.

**WENDY**

And risk losing their precious followers?

Of course not.

**ASHLEY**

Our numbers are through the roof, Miss Watson!

The audience loves it.

**WENDY**

The desperation, the panic - it's addictive!

**ASHLEY**

**(gesturing to the screen)**

Spy-Fi, are proving to be a problem.

**WENDY**

A nuisance.

**ASHLEY**

A liability.

**WENDY**

We can't have them getting too curious.

**ASHLEY**

Perhaps it would be better to... silence them - permanently.

**The words hang in the air for a moment.**

**WENDY** slowly turns her head to **ASHLEY**, then smirks.

**WENDY**

Ashley, darling, that was almost convincing.

**ASHLEY**

What do you expect, Miss Watson -

**(courtesies)**

I'm learning from the best.

**WENDY**

**(smirks)**

Tell me - are the preparations in order for the Grand Finale?

**ASHLEY**

The stage is set and the trap is sprung!

MwahahahaHAHAAAAA!

**WENDY**

True villainy... comes from the belly.

**WENDY suddenly throws her head back and lets out a dramatic, classic "Mwahahaha!"**

**ASHLEY hesitates, then joins in.**

**WENDY**

From the diaphragm!

**(She places a hand on her stomach and takes a deep breath.)**

From here! Like this!

MwahahahaHAHAAAAA!

**ASHLEY**

MwahahahaHAHAAAAA!

**WENDY**

Yes, deeper! MwahahahaHAHAAAAA!

**ASHLEY**

MwahahahaHAHAAAAA!

**WENDY**

**(arms outstretched)**

MwahahahaHAHAAAAAHAAAAAAAAA!

**BLACKOUT.**

**SCENE 7: HOTEL GLAMROCKS. BANQUET ROOM. INT. NIGHT.**

**A single spotlight illuminating centre stage.**

**A catchy, upbeat advert jingle plays in the background as the INFLUENCER groups step forward one by one, delivering their short, over-the-top energy drink commercials.**

**THE DIBBIDIDOO SOLVERS step forward into the spotlight.**

**JOY**

When you're exposing government lies...

**EMPANADA**

When the truth is just within reach...

**SOPHIE**

**(dramatic pause, wide eyes)**

You need a Power Surge!

**JOY**

Because real power isn't in their hands - it's in yours!

**EMPANADA**

Stay sharp.

**SOPHIE**

Stay awake.

**ALL**

Question everything.

**They take a sip, raise their bottles together dramatically and freeze, then exit.**

**SWIFTIE SISTERS step forward into the spotlight.**

**ROSIE**

Need to *shake off* a long day?

**EVIE**

Running on *no sleep* after a Taylor concert?



**CHAR**

You need a drink that is *enchanted to meet you*.

**ISABELLA**

Power Surge - because we never run out of energy!

**They take a sip, and all strike a dramatic, album-cover-worthy pose, freeze, then exit.**

**XTREME STREAM steps forward into the spotlight.**

**JJ**

Wanna push your limits?

**JACK**

Or just push your luck?

**JOSH**

This drink has twice the kick and zero hesitation!

**JJ**

Power Surge, because we like it -

**ALL**

Xtreme!

**They all strike their dramatic 'Xtreme' pose, freeze, then exit.**

**BEAUTY GLOW enter.**

**AMELIA**

Inner beauty starts from within.

**SUMMER**

And so does inner-radiance.

**ELLA**

One sip of Power Surge and you'll be glowing...

**MIA**

...with confidence.

**They take a sip, stroke their bottles lovingly, striking a glamorous pose before exiting.**

**SPY-FI enter.**

**SALLY**

When I'm digging through encrypted files... I need focus.

**STORM**

When I'm tracing data leaks... I need stamina.

**SALLY**

Power Surge - for when I need to be one step ahead.

**STORM**

Not just an energy drink - this is fuel for the truth.

**SALLY**

Power up.

**STORM**

With Power Surge!

**They take one calculated sip, nod in approval, then freeze before exiting.**

**HEY THERE HUSKIES enter.**

**ZOE**

When you've got endless walkies ahead...

**IZZY**

Or a dog that never listens...

**OLIVIA**

Stay hydrated, with Power Surge.

**EMMA**

Because real energy comes from being paw-fect. Like me!

**They take a sip, strike a pose and freeze, before exiting.**

**The lights shift dramatically on, as the jingle fades.**

**The INFLUENCERS step back as WENDY and ASHLEY enter, with glasses of champagne.**

**WENDY**

Bravo, what a fantastic day's work!

I wanted to come over and make toast -

**(holding her glass high)**

To your hard work, your bravery - and your utter, humiliating desperation for fame!

**The INFLUENCERS awkwardly murmur thanks, unsure where this is going.**

**WENDY**

How pathetic you all are!

**ASHLEY**

Pathetic!

**WENDY**

That delicious energy drink you just guzzled down?

**(mimicking)**

Power Surge!

Well, I have a secret to tell you!

It was laced with a highly potent laxative.

**The influencers freeze, horror creeping onto their faces.**

**ASHLEY**

Within minutes, you'll be live-streaming a very different kind of content!

From your bottoms!

**The INFLUENCERS exchange panicked whispers, eyes darting from to one another.**

**ALFRED enters from upstage.**

**ALFRED**

Now, that *would* have been funny.

**(sarcastically)**

I guess.

**ASHLEY**

Alfred, shouldn't you be taking out the bins?

**ALFRED**

You see, here's the thing.

**ALFRED rips the cheque into pieces and drops it on the floor in front of WENDY.**

**ALFRED**

Our deal is off.

**WENDY**

You silly little man.

You'll regret that.

**ALFRED**

Probably.

Now, Miss Watson, did I ever mention that this place used to be a former government site - It was used for mind control experiments in the seventies.

**EMPANADA**

I knew it!

**ALFRED**

You know, there's lots of hidden tunnels in this old place.

Mostly used for surveillance.

I heard your plan and did a little... switcheroo.

**(gestures toward WENDY and ASHLEY'S champagne glasses)**

So the laxative?

It's actually in *your* drinks.

**A pause. WENDY and ASHLEY's eyes widen in disbelief.**

**WENDY**

You're bluffing.

**A sudden farting noise rumbles through the silence.**

**ASHLEY**

**(eyes widening, grabbing her bottom)**

Oh... no!

**A second louder fart.**

**The INFLUENCERS start gasping and holding their noses, recoiling in disgust.**

**Some wave their hands in front of their faces, others dramatically gag.**

**A third fart.**

**WENDY**

I... need the toilet!

**ASHLEY**

Me too!

**WENDY and ASHLEY suddenly bolt for the exit, clutching their bottoms in sheer desperation, as more exaggerated fart noises erupt. The INFLUENCERS burst into hysterics, howling with laughter, pointing as they scramble offstage.**

**The laughter fades slightly.**

**A pause.**

**A lingering silence.**

**ALFRED steps forward, looking out as if addressing the unseen audience beyond the room.**

**ALFRED**

To all of you out there watching.

You'd be wise to remember this.

In the end, it's not about who gets the most views.

It's about who can still look at themselves in the mirror, when the cameras turn off.

**ALFRED raises both eyebrows.**

**A beat.**

**A final fart erupts.**

**BLACKOUT**

**END.**