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WHAT WE DO IN THE SHADOWS

"TBD"
Episode #505

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1 INT. CHANNEL 8 NEWS STUDIO - NIGHT (N1)

1

The OPENING THEME for CHANNEL 8 NEWS fills the screen. The music is heavy on digital strings and keyboard; the graphics are low budget.

The graphics clear to reveal TED SPINELLI and LISA LIPTON seated at the Anchor Desk, smiling bright and straightening papers. Very much a small local news station feel.

TED SPINELLI

Good evening, New Yorkers, and welcome to Channel 8 News, Live at 7. I'm Ted Spinelli.

LISA LIPTON

And I'm Lisa Lipton. A big day in the news across the city, but we begin in Staten Island, where a water main break in the West New Brighton neighborhood left the streets looking more like rivers. Joanna Roscoe is live from Staten Island now.

They throw to JOANNA ROSCOE, who stands, mic in hand, in the middle of a still-wet STATEN ISLAND STREET. Behind her, a COLUMN OF STEAM is rising out of the ground -- surrounded by a CREW OF CITY WORKERS, their trucks, partitions, work lights, etc.

JOANNA ROSCOE

That's right, Lisa. This was the scene just hours ago on what is usually a quiet residential street.

CUT TO: CLIPS of a water main break and flooding on a Staten Island street with the chyron "EARLIER".

JOANNA ROSCOE (CONT'D)

As you can see behind me now, city workers have since managed to stop the street-level flooding, but underground flooding remains a concern. And when all that water comes in contact with the electrical cables and pipe networks, you get a very messy -- and very steamy -- situation.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JOANNA ROSCOE (CONT'D)

Repairs are underway, but with a massive structural failure like this, work will certainly continue into the night, and we've got a ways to go before things are back to normal.

TED SPINELLI

Oh boy. That means a messy commute home for a few Staten Islanders.

JOANNA ROSCOE

Sure does. Now fortunately, no injuries have been reported, but there is worry that this lingering pipe damage might result in flooded basements -- or worse. I'm here with a local resident who has been watching the situation closely.

The news camera WIDENS: NANDOR stands next to Joanna, smiles.

JOANNA ROSCOE (CONT'D)

His name is Nandor...

NANDOR

Nandor the... Just Nandor is good.

JOANNA ROSCOE

And you live here on this block, Nandor?

NANDOR

Yes, Joanna. I do. In that house there. With my friends. It's fun.

JOANNA ROSCOE

And I understand you were out on the street when the water main broke. Can you tell us about it?

NANDOR

Yes, Joanna. I can. I was out taking my evening walk, which is for my mental health as much as for my physical health, and then CRASH! BURST! Water shot into the air and rushed through the streets, but I was very brave.

JOANNA ROSCOE

I'd say you were. And have you ever seen an incident like this in the area before, Nandor?

(CONTINUED)

NANDOR

Not since the flood we had in 1892,
Joanna. That was a big boy.

JOANNA ROSCOE

(playfully)

1892!

Beat. Nandor realizes his mistake, winces.

NANDOR

Silly me, Joanna. Not 1892. I meant
1992.

JOANNA ROSCOE

I was gonna say -- 1892? Someone
give me this guy's skin care
secrets!

NANDOR

Heh. Yes. 1992 was a year within my
human lifespan and 1892 was not.
Because this is the year 2002.

(off Joanna's reaction)

I mean, 2032.

(off Joanna's reaction)

Nooo... Don't tell me. 20...

JOANNA ROSCOE

23.

NANDOR

(trying to match Joanna)

... 23! Yes. It is 2023 now and it
was 1992 then and I have lived in
Staten Island for many centuries.

JOANNA ROSCOE

(joking)

Well, sounds like someone has
discovered the secret of eternal
life! So --

NANDOR

(interrupting)

Um, Joanna, I have got to go. Now.

Nandor rushes off.

JOANNA ROSCOE

Okay, well -- and he's gone. But
Ted and Lisa, we will be here,
monitoring this situation on the
ground as it develops. Back to you.

(CONTINUED)

1

CONTINUED: (3)

1

As Joanna throws back to the anchors, we see Nandor running away at full speed behind her, back to the vampire mansion.

OPENING CREDITS

2

INT. MANSION - MUSIC ROOM - NIGHT (N1)

2

NADJA and COLIN are sitting and reading. LASZLO is at the piano. The NADJA DOLL is sitting on top of the piano, facing him. Laszlo plays a note. The Nadja Doll tries to sing the note, but she's nowhere near the right pitch.

NADJA DOLL

(singing)

Ahhh!

LASZLO

Better, but still a little flat.
Feel it in your diaphragm.

Laszlo plays the note again. THE GUIDE, who's been watching, hums the note correctly. Both Laszlo and the Nadja Doll give her a look like she's interrupting.

THE GUIDE

Sorry. Thought that might help.

Nandor bursts into the room.

NANDOR

GUILLERMO!

LASZLO

Gizmo's not here.

NANDOR

Of course he is not here! Because he is never here! Turn on the television! Channel 8!

Colin pulls off a SHEET covering the LARGE TV (from Season 4), grabs the remote, and flips through channels to find Channel 8. ON TV: Joanna Roscoe continues her live report.

COLIN

Hey, our street. That's neat.

NANDOR

It is not neat at all! I have committed an unforgivable and irreversible blunder!

(CONTINUED)

NADJA

Okay, take it easy --

NANDOR

I-I accidentally told this Joanna Roscoe that we have lived on this street for many centuries --

Everyone gasps.

NANDOR (CONT'D)

And now she and everyone who watches the Channel 8 News Live at 7 knows that we are vampires, and now --

Everyone gasps again.

NADJA

And now the humans will drive us out of Staten Island, just like they drove us out of the Old Country!

LASZLO

Alea iacta est. Game over.

Colin punches the wall, slightly denting it. He rubs his fist -- That hurt.

THE GUIDE

What do we do?!

NADJA

RUN! FLEE! HIGHTAIL TO THE BLOODY HILLS! The townspeople are gathering their pitchforks and fire torches as we speak!

COLIN

No way. I ain't running. This time, we fight. This is our final stand.

Colin moves a piece of furniture to barricade the entry.

NANDOR

Oh, what have I done?

COLIN

I'd rather die on my feet than live on my knees. Who's with me?

(CONTINUED)

LASZLO

Nobody panic! I have a plan: We
must kill this Joanna Roscoe.

(CONTINUED)

2

NANDOR
And what would that solve?

LASZLO
Well, do you have any better ideas?

Beat.

NANDOR
Where is Guillermo?!

3

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - ELEVATOR/HALLWAY - NIGHT (N1) 3

GUILLERMO stands in an elevator, talking to camera.

GUILLERMO
Yep, tonight is kind of a "good-bye dinner" for me and my mom. I mean, she doesn't know it's "good-bye," but I am this close to completing my vampire transformation. Like, days away. I can feel it. So yeah, I don't love leaving the vampires on their own, but time is kind of the essence. Once I'm a full vampire, it won't be safe for my family -- or me -- to come around. 'Cause, you know, Van Helsing DNA.

FLASHBACK: Guillermo's family chases Nadja with stakes (406).

GUILLERMO (CONT'D)
It's pretty heavy. You never imagine you'll have to say a final goodbye to your mom, you know?

DING. The elevator doors open and Guillermo steps out into a HALLWAY, walks toward his mother's apartment door.

(CONTINUED)

GUILLERMO (CONT'D)

And I hate good-byes. But they're important.

Guillermo arrives at the door, breathes deep, then knocks. SILVIA opens it.

SILVIA

Hola, mijito.

Silvia gives Guillermo a quick greeting hug. Guillermo doesn't let go for a little too long.

INT. SILVIA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS (N1)

The place is filled with GUESTS, including MAITE, VALERIA, and MIGUEL. It's decorated with balloons. On the LIVING ROOM TV, Miguel watches the CHANNEL 8 NEWS, which is airing its sports update with reporter SAM GILL.

SAM GILL

(on TV)

... In a stunning upset this afternoon, the Rangers dominated the Penguins, 6 to 1. Let's see if they can ride that momentum into the weekend, when they'll be facing the Oilers in Edmonton. And from the ice to the hardwood, it's a big night at the Garden, where the Knicks will host the Jazz. A string of injuries has been plaguing the New York locker room, but can the Orange and Blue rally for the win? We'll have game highlights at 11. Until then, I'm Sam Gill. Back to you, Ted and Lisa.

SILVIA

¡Llegó Guillermo!

Miguel approaches, gives Guillermo a bro-hug.

MIGUEL

Hey, Memo.

(re: cameras)

These guys still doing that documentary about losers who work at the railroad? I'm just playing. We're putting Tía's gifts in there.

GUILLERMO

Um...

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

7A.
4

4

Guillermo is empty-handed.

(CONTINUED)

4

MIGUEL

You didn't bring a gift for your own mama's birthday? That's fucked-up, primo. What's up with you?

5

GUILLERMO TALKING HEAD- INT. SILVIA'S APARTMENT- NIGHT (N1) 5

GUILLERMO

I guess I was so focused on this being a big night for me, I kind of forgot it was a big night for her.

(beat)

Would it be weird to ask you guys to run out and get flowers? Yeah, that would be weird. Never mind.

6

INT. SILVIA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (N1)

6

Silvia addresses her guests, gestures toward the DINING ROOM.

SILVIA

¡Coman, todos, coman!

Guests head to the Dining Room. Guillermo taps Silvia's arm.

GUILLERMO

Ama, antes de que empiece la cena, necesito hablar contigo, mmm, en privado.

SILVIA

¡Tenemos invitados, Guillermo! Podemos hablar más tarde.

GUILLERMO

Sí, pero esto de verdad no puede esperar. Y no quiero decirlo delante de todos. Solo yo y tú.

SILVIA

Ay, siempre tan dramático. Está bien.

Silvia leads Guillermo towards the hallway to the bedrooms. As they pass the TV -- which is playing silently -- Guillermo notices what's on the screen and stops.

GUILLERMO

¿Sabes que? ¿Podemos hablar más tarde?

Silvia rolls her eyes, heads back towards the Dining Room.

(CONTINUED)

SILVIA

Dramático, dramático. Desde que era un niño...

Guillermo sits down on a footstool, not taking his eyes off the TV, patting the area around him in search of the remote to raise the volume.

GUILLERMO

What the hell is he doing...?

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. STATEN ISLAND STREET - NIGHT (N1)

JOANNA ROSCOE

... Now the situation here is progressing, but we're hearing that the underground damage turned out to be more extensive than officials originally thought -- Which could mean street closures for the next 24 hours. Were there any warning signs? Local resident Nandor is back with us to share some insights.

NANDOR

Hello.

JOANNA ROSCOE

Now Nandor, you believe this break is part of a pattern of local infrastructure failures?

NANDOR

Yes, Joanna. If I may.

Nandor grabs Joanna's mic and speaks directly to the news camera.

NANDOR (CONT'D)

(hypnotizing)

To the millions and millions of viewers of the Channel 8 News Live at 7, I command you to forg --

The video feed abruptly CUTS BACK TO:

INT. CHANNEL 8 NEWS STUDIO - NIGHT (N1)

Ted Spinelli and Lisa Lipton at the Anchor Desk.

(CONTINUED)

TED SPINELLI
Apologies to Joanna and Mister
Nandor, but we have some breaking
news.

A loud, flashy BREAKING NEWS GRAPHIC crosses the screen.

TED SPINELLI (CONT'D)

The National Weather Service has announced a severe thunderstorm warning for the city. We go now to meteorologist Heather Dupont at the News 8 WeatherWall for more.

They throw to HEATHER DUPONT, who stands in front of a GREEN-SCREEN showing storm activity over a map of New York City.

HEATHER DUPONT

Thanks, Ted. Right now the warning is in effect for New York County, Kings County, and Richmond County, with high precipitation and heavy winds expected. However, these storms can be unpredictable, so residents across the five boroughs are urged to stay alert.

LISA LIPTON

Absolutely. And we'll be staying with this story exclusively to keep our viewers safe and up to date.

TED SPINELLI

We sure will.

INT. SILVIA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (N1)

Guillermo is glued to the TV. Through a cased opening, we see the other guests serving themselves in the DINING ROOM. Valeria pops in.

VALERIA

Guillermo, ¡ya estamos comiendo!

GUILLERMO

Ya voy...

(to camera)

I leave the house for one minute...

Guillermo dials on his phone. The house's outgoing voicemail message (from 204) picks up:

GUILLERMO (V.O.)

(on the outgoing message)

We're not in right now, but if you'd like to leave a message for Nandor, Nadja, or Laszlo --

(CONTINUED)

COLIN (V.O.)
(on the outgoing message)
Or Colin Robinson --

MIGUEL (O.S.)
iMemo! iVamos!

GUILLERMO
iQue te esperes!
(to camera, redialing)
No, I'm not gonna leave. Tonight is
important for me. Besides, this --
(gestures to TV)
-- is manageable. The vampires just
need to lay low and this will all
blow over. Not a code red.

HARD CUT TO:

INT. MANSION - FOYER - NIGHT (N1)

Chaos. Everyone is coming and going through the Foyer -- each with a different plan. The home phone RINGS continuously. Laszlo paces with an unlit pipe in his mouth, scribbling the flowchart of a plan feverishly on an easel pad -- and then, displeased with the results, he tears the page off and starts a new one. Colin is in a tech vest, the pockets stuffed with road flares, duct tape, grenades, etc. Colin finishes hammering some board across the front door, then he stretches filament tripwire off a big spool, pushing past Laszlo. Nadja hurries in, her hair blonde and wet -- she's just dyed it. Nadja pulls an old-fashioned carpet bag from behind a painting on the second floor landing.

THE GUIDE
(re: ringing phone)
Should I get that?

Everyone ignores The Guide. Laszlo looks up from his paper.

LASZLO
Announcement! After a thorough
methodical analysis, I no longer
think the best plan is to kill
Joanna Roscoe.

COLIN
No freaking shit, Laszlo! Now help
me booby-trap the staircase.

Colin stands on a stack of crates, attaching daggers -- blades facing down -- to the chandelier.

(CONTINUED)

NADJA

This is no time to decorate, Colin Robinson! Get your fucking go-bag!

LASZLO

Instead, I have a more subtle, devious, multi-part plan. The first step of which is: Kidnap Joanna Roscoe.

NADJA

And how is that going to help?

LASZLO

By bringing us to step two.

Nadja fumes.

10A

NADJA TALKING HEAD - INT. MANSION - NIGHT

10A

NADJA

Vampires must be prepared to skip out of the town on a moment's notice.

Under this, DRAWINGS AND PAINTINGS of vampires being driven out of towns over the centuries.

NADJA (CONT'D)

I have been chased from five, maybe six villages over my vampiric life. And believe me, you do not want to be out there fleeing with only the clothes on your back, sleeping in a hollow tree's trunk, feeding on the wolves you once called your brothers. So what is the first thing I did when we moved to Staten Island? I made the go-bags. In case we ever had to flee again. And zip-a-dee-dilf-da, here we are.

(stricken)

We'll probably end up in Canada.

Nadja tears up, waves off the camera: "I need a moment."

10B

INT. MANSION - FOYER - NIGHT (N1)

10B

As before. The phone RINGS.

(CONTINUED)

THE GUIDE

(re: ringing phone)

I should answer it? I should not
answer it? Happy to do either! Just
want to be a team player!

Nadja pulls a piece of yellowed paper out of her go-bag.

NADJA

Everyone! Inside your go-bags you
will find your emergency fleeing
checklist!

Colin pushes past her, using a lighter to ignite a flame from
a can of aerosol hairspray, testing it.

NADJA (CONT'D)

Watch it! Now.

(reading)

"Ancestral soil." Check. "Three
days' supply of blood."

(sniffs a canteen)

Oof. A little rank, but check.

"Memorize new identity."

(examines paper)

"My name is Sally Rhubarb."

(repeating to memorize)

Sally Rhubarb, Sally Rhubarb, Sally
Rhu --

THE GUIDE

(re: phone)

You know, maybe I will just take it
off of the hook?

No one responds.

THE GUIDE (CONT'D)

Okay.

The Guide takes the phone off the hook.

NADJA

"My name is Sally Rhubarb. I am a
blonde girl from a large farm. My
blackberry pie wins every year at
the county fair."

Nadja, studying her new identity papers, starts to sit in a
chair, but --

COLIN

Don't sit there!

(CONTINUED)

NADJA

Why not?

Colin grabs Nadja's go-bag and tosses it onto the seat of the chair. A massive spring-loaded SPIKE shoots upward through the cushion and pierces her bag.

COLIN

Most of the first floor is now
booby-trapped. For our final stand.

NADJA

Oh yes. Because the first thing the
attackers will do is sit down for a
nice rest!

LASZLO

Enough! You are frittering away
valuable time.

NADJA

Thank you.

LASZLO

We need to find a large kidnapping
sack.

Nadja approaches Laszlo, her face extremely close to his.

NADJA

Get your go-bag!

LASZLO

Trust the plan.

NADJA

Get your go-bag.

LASZLO

Trust the plan.

NADJA

Get your go-bag.

COLIN

You may want to move this argument
away from the chandelier fall zone.
And mind the trip wires.

The front door STRAINS LOUDLY, RATTLES against the frame. The
vampires stop at the sound. There's a silence.

(CONTINUED)

COLIN (CONT'D)

This is it. This is where we make
our final st --

NADJA

Will you please stop saying that!

Nandor pushes open the door, breaking easily through the
wooden board Colin hammered across the doorway earlier. He
approaches the Foyer.

NANDOR

Friends, do not fear. I went back
onto the Channel 8 News Live at 7
and hypnotized all the viewers so --

When Nandor steps into the Foyer, he trips one of Colin's
tripwires. A cinder block on a rope swings down from the
ceiling and nails Nandor squarely in the crotch. Nandor is
unfazed, simply pushes the cinder block aside. Colin frowns,
confused.

NADJA

We saw. You did not hypnotize
anyone. The humans interrupted your
blather with a warning of a storm.

NANDOR

Oh.

(beat)

THIS IS ALL GUILLERMO'S FAULT!

(sotto)

He is not back yet, is he?

LASZLO

No.

NANDOR

Why is your hair yellow, Nadja?

NADJA

I am not Nadja! I am Sally Rhubarb!
And you must get your go-bag!

NANDOR

There's no time for that now! Plus
I don't remember where it is. No,
there is only one way out of this:
We must kill Joanna Roscoe.

Laszlo shows his easel pad to Nandor.

LASZLO

My first thought as well, but if
you follow Arrow F you'll see there
is a more sophisticated option.

10B

Nandor traces the page with his finger.

NANDOR
Kidnap Joanna Roscoe?

LASZLO
Yes. It's step one of my plan.

NANDOR
And then what?

LASZLO
Step two.

NANDOR
Okay, this is a plan I can get on
board with...

11 INT. SILVIA'S APARTMENT - DINING ROOM/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 11
(N1)

The party guests sit at the dinner table. Guillermo has angled himself to keep an eye on the TV in the LIVING ROOM with the volume on low. ON TV: The storm coverage continues. Guillermo dials his PHONE under the table. Busy signal.

MIGUEL
... And I'm like, "How am I
supposed to know a Corolla doesn't
take diesel, bruh?"

VALERIA
Guillermo? Are you okay?

GUILLERMO
(distracted)
Yeah, I'm here. Diesel.

MIGUEL
He doesn't listen. Don't bother.

GUILLERMO
I'm listening.

MIGUEL
It's always like this, man. For
years. Every time we get together,
you're just, like, somewhere else.

MAITE
Las pantallas.

(CONTINUED)

MIGUEL

Exactly. The screens. You gotta cut that shit off, cold turkey. Like I did with the Sierra Mist.

GUILLERMO

Sorry, I'm here. Just, my job, I have to be available, okay? It's not, like, punch in, punch out.

VALERIA

You work too much, Guillermo. It's not healthy.

MIGUEL

You gotta tell your boss, "Treat me and my time with respect. Or else -- hasta luego!" But you're probably too scared to do that.

GUILLERMO

(defensive)

I'm not scared of my boss. I actually did make a pretty big move recently. Yeah. My old boss kept promising me a promotion, and I got tired of waiting, so I made a move. A huge move. To look out for me. Myself.

MIGUEL

Then why are you still all on your phone?

ON TV: THE BREAKING NEWS GRAPHIC crosses the screen.

LISA LIPTON

(on TV)

And we've got some more breaking news on that thunderstorm. Heather Dupont has the latest. Heather?

Lisa throws to Heather and the green-screen WeatherWall.

HEATHER DUPONT

(on TV)

Well, Lisa, we thought this one might be unpredictable, and sure enough, winds appear to be blowing the worst of the weather way to the east. That means this area's thunderstorm warning has now been downgraded to just a possible light rain.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

HEATHER DUPONT (CONT'D)

So keep those slickers handy, but this is good news for the five boroughs.

TED SPINELLI

(on TV)

Yes, that is a big relief. Thanks, Heather.

LISA LIPTON

(on TV)

Let's check in with Joanna Roscoe, who's still monitoring that water main break over in Staten Island.

Guillermo's eyes flick away to the TV, then back to Miguel.

GUILLERMO

Well, I'm in kind of a transitional period right now. Still with the old railroad, haven't started being full-time with the new railroad yet. But I'm here, okay? I'm here.

MIGUEL

How many railroads even are there?

JOANNA ROSCOE

(on TV)

Thanks, Lisa. I'm joined now by...

THE GUIDE

(on TV)

I do not have a name in the traditional sense.

Guillermo stops at The Guide's voice. Guillermo bolts from the table back to the Living Room to watch the TV.

INTERCUT WITH:

12 EXT. STATEN ISLAND STREET - NIGHT (N1)

12

JOANNA ROSCOE

Okay. And you said you work for the city, and that we should expect further damage across the borough?

THE GUIDE

Yes, there will be damage. Bloodshed, too. But there does not have to be. This is why I propose a truce.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

THE GUIDE (CONT'D)

Because we are not so different,
you and I. We all want peace.
Understanding. To get railed in new
and unexpected ways from time to
time...

JOANNA ROSCOE

Okay, thanks so much.
(showing The Guide off)
There ya go. Bye-bye.
(back to camera)
Sorry to anyone at home who may
have children viewing, but events
like this do tend to bring out some
of our more colorful fellow
citizens...

13 INT. SILVIA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (N1)

13

Guillermo dials the phone urgently.

GUILLERMO

(to camera)
No, the vampires still aren't
picking up the phone.
(beat)
No, I'm not going over there. This
might be my last night as a human
and I am putting myself, and my
family, first. I just need to...
Wait.

Guillermo gets an idea, dials again.

SEAN (V.O.)

(on speakerphone)
Hello?

GUILLERMO

Sean? It's Guillermo. From next
door.

ON TV: The Guide keeps wandering in the BG of Joanna's shot --
trying to get back on camera, while a PRODUCER in a Channel 8
windbreaker keeps gently trying to steer her away.

SEAN (V.O.)

Oh hey, Guillermo. Go for Sean.

GUILLERMO

I actually need you to do me a
favor.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GUILLERMO (CONT'D)

I need you to go over to the house
and tell the vam -- Laszlo and
Nadja and everyone to go inside and
stay inside until I get home.

SEAN (V.O.)

Oof. Could be tricky, pal. There
was this water main break on our
street...

REVEAL: ON TV, SEAN wanders into the background of Joanna
Roscoe's shot. Sean's audio is now half from Guillermo's
speakerphone, half from the off-mic sound on the TV.

SEAN

... And these TV fuckers parked
their satellite truck right in
front of my driveway. Threw their
gear on my lawn, which I just had
resodded last year, and -- Hang on.
(to an O.C. crew member)
Hey, Channel 8 guy. Can you get
your shit off my lawn? This is
Bermuda sod. Yeah, I'm talking to
you. Clown.

ON TV: The MAIN STUDIO cuts in on SPLIT SCREEN.

LISA LIPTON

(on TV)

Looks like you got your hands full
there, Joanna.

JOANNA ROSCOE

(on TV)

Yes, Lisa, it's a bit chaotic here.

ON TV: In the BG, Sean continues to yell at a crew member.

JOANNA ROSCOE (CONT'D)

(on TV)

As I said, a crisis like this can
bring out a lot of emotions, strong
emotions, in a tight-knit
community.

ON TV: The Guide dodges the Producer and addresses camera.

THE GUIDE

(on TV)

This territory of Staten Island
can, nay must, be shared between
our peoples --

(CONTINUED)

13

The Split Screen ends. Back with the Main Studio.

TED SPINELLI

(on TV)

We're gonna give Joanna a moment.
Lot of excitement over there.

LISA LIPTON

(on TV, switching stories)

And speaking of excitement, you'll
never guess what this Bronx seventh
grader is doing to raise money for
the rainforest...

Guillermo closes his eyes. He's out of options.

14

INT. MANSION - FOYER - NIGHT (N1)

14

The Guide enters from outside. Colin is wedging unlit sticks of dynamite between floorboards, behind paintings, into wall cracks. Pages from Laszlo's easel now hang from clotheslines and overflow onto one of the walls. Nandor pins up a final page as he and Laszlo talk through the huge, complex flowchart. Nadja sits on the floor, studying an array of maps: a medieval-era map (complete with sea monster in the ocean), a decades-old AAA road map of Arizona, a Candyland game board. Nadja traces a path across them.

NADJA

If we take a northern route, we can
avoid the water dragon in the
sea... And then follow the Route 66
to... the Molasses Swamp...

THE GUIDE

Well, reason and diplomacy did not
work, as you saw.

Nadja reacts to camera: "What is she talking about?" In the BG, Colin sets up a dynamite plunger in the Fancy Room.

THE GUIDE (CONT'D)

So let's do it. Let us flee!

NADJA

Us?

THE GUIDE

Yes! If the others will not, then
it will be just you and I, into the
night! I shall go and prepare my
disguise!

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

NADJA

Em, okay.

The Guide exits. Nadja shrugs.

NADJA (CONT'D)

Have to start somewhere, I suppose.

15 INT. SILVIA'S APARTMENT - DINING ROOM/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 15
(N1)

Guillermo re-enters, addresses the table.

GUILLERMO

So bad news. There's an emergency
with a, uh, train. And I really
tried, but I have to leave.

MIGUEL

Called it. I called that.

GUILLERMO

(dials again)

Mama, before I go, can we please
have that --

(dials again)

That talk?

SILVIA

(sighs)

*Está bien, mijito.*Silvia excuses herself, starts to follow Guillermo into the
Living Room.

LASZLO (V.O.)

(on speakerphone)

Hallo?

Guillermo stops.

GUILLERMO

Laszlo? Laszlo! Don't hang up!

Guillermo gives Silvia an "I need to take this" finger and
shoos her back to her seat. She and the rest of the family
exchange looks about Guillermo's rudeness. Guillermo walks
off to the Living Room.

INTERCUT WITH:

16 INT. MANSION - FOYER - NIGHT (N1)

16

LASZLO

Who is this?

GUILLERMO

It's Guillermo. You don't recognize my voice?

LASZLO

It is always about you in the end, isn't it?

GUILLERMO

I'm watching the news! What's going on over there?

LASZLO

Can't talk right now, Gizmo. To make a shit story short, we've been found out, and now the whole world knows that vampires are real and that we are they. Them.

GUILLERMO

Just stay in the house and don't do anything, okay? I'm on my way back and --

LASZLO

No need, Gizmo. I have developed an ingenious, multi-step plan to fix this --

Nandor walks in with a burlap sack, shows it to Laszlo. Laszlo cups the phone receiver.

LASZLO (CONT'D)

Won't do. Too small.

NANDOR

Are you sure?

Colin enters, pushing a suit of armor on a dolly.

COLIN

'Scuse me.

LASZLO

Certain. If we're going to kidnap Joanna Roscoe we need a sack large enough for her entire body.

(CONTINUED)

NANDOR

I think this sack is big enough.

Colin comes up to the extended telephone cord. He's blocked.
Hm.

LASZLO

Can you fit in it?

NANDOR

Let us see.

Nandor steps into the burlap sack. The top reaches his waist.

GUILLERMO

Are you still there?

NANDOR

Too small.

LASZLO

Too small.

Colin tries to go around, but can't manage with the suit of armor.

COLIN

(to Laszlo, re: telephone
wire)

Mind if I...?

Without a second thought, Laszlo hands Colin the receiver.

GUILLERMO

Laszlo?

Colin SNIPS the telephone cord, clearing his path. He continues pushing the suit of armor through the Foyer toward the Hallway.

COLIN

There we go.

Colin exits.

WITH GUILLERMO:

GUILLERMO

Hello? Hello?

Nandor rushes in with a large, see-through blue recycling bag. In the BG, Colin brushes black grease onto a stair.

(CONTINUED)

17 WWDITS: 505 - FINAL SCRIPT (12/07/22)
CONTINUED:

24A.
17

No. LASZLO

(CONTINUED)

NANDOR

What? This is a very large bag. I already tried it. I fit.

LASZLO

It's translucent.

NANDOR

You know I do not know what that means.

Nadja enters. She grabs a candlestick and a skull from the top of the dresser and adds them to her go-bag.

NADJA

We need to move!

Nandor and Laszlo ignore her.

LASZLO

It's see-through. The purpose of the bag is both kidnappee containment as well as visual obstruction.

NANDOR

We could add a blindfold?

LASZLO

It's an interesting proposition. But the extra element adds time.

NANDOR

Mm. Yes.

Nadja grabs a page from the flowchart, starts ripping it into pieces and throwing them --

NADJA

YOU NEED! TO GET! YOUR GO-BAGS!

Nandor and Laszlo finally pay attention to Nadja.

NANDOR

(holding up the blue bag)
We have a bag. Right here.

Nadja, frustrated, exits.

LASZLO

Just to keep our terms consistent, let's stick with "sack."

(MORE)

WWDITS: 505 - FINAL SCRIPT (12/07/22)

25A.

17

CONTINUED: (3)

17

LASZLO (CONT'D)
(making a note on the
flowchart)
"Kidnapping sack."

18

INT. SILVIA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT (N1)

18

Silvia is in her bedroom, taking off her earrings.

(CONTINUED)

GUILLERMO

Mama?

SILVIA

(not looking at him)

Mm-hmm.

GUILLERMO

I'm leaving now. Where is everyone?

SILVIA

*Se han ido. Se acabo la fiesta.
Mientras estabas hablando por
teléfono. Miguel está limpiando.*

GUILLERMO

Oh.

English subtitles below the following:

GUILLERMO (CONT'D)

*Ama, algunas cosas van a cambiar.
No puedo decirte que es, pero lo
hecho, está hecho.*

(beat)

*El punto es que, algún día muy
pronto, ya no podré venir y verte.*

SILVIA

¿Qué significa eso?

Guillermo shrugs. He doesn't want to lie to his mother anymore, but he knows he can't say the full truth.

SILVIA (CONT'D)

¿Estas feliz con el cambio?

Guillermo shrugs again. He really doesn't know anymore.

SILVIA (CONT'D)

*Mi pequeño. Todos dudamos de
nosotros mismos cuando hacemos
grandes cambios.*

(tapping her crucifix)

*Es entonces cuando tenemos que
aferrarnos a lo que es más
importante... ¿Y tu cruzesita?
¿Dónde está?*

(CONTINUED)

Silvia rolls her eyes and crosses herself.

SILVIA (CONT'D)

Espera.

Silvia grabs another crucifix from her jewelry on the dresser. She motions for Guillermo to come stand with her by the mirror. Guillermo faces the mirror. Silvia stands behind him to put the crucifix around his neck, unaware that GUILLERMO'S REFLECTION IS HALF-FADED IN THE MIRROR. The crucifix SMOKES slightly against Guillermo's skin. Silvia doesn't see this. Guillermo bears the pain stoically.

SILVIA (CONT'D)

*Ay. Estos broches tan pequeños.
¿Acaso creen que tengo manos de
muñeca? No tengo pequeñas manos de
muñeca.*

INT. SILVIA'S APARTMENT - ENTRY/HALLWAY/ELEVATOR - NIGHT(N19)

Silvia walks Guillermo to the door. He holds a Tupperware of leftovers.

MIGUEL (O.C.)

Later, Memo!

GUILLERMO

Later.

(to Silvia)

Okay, then. Good-bye.

Guillermo hugs her -- a long hug. He doesn't want to let go.

SILVIA

Está bien, cariño. Adiós.

Guillermo finally releases. He walks towards the elevator, teary-eyed, keeps turning back for one more small wave.

MIGUEL

(softly)

What's going on with him lately?

SILVIA

(softly)

*No sé. Es la tercera vez este mes
que viene y se despide de esta
manera. Pero volverá la semana que
viene. Ay mi niño tan chistoso.*

IN THE ELEVATOR, Guillermo pulls off his smoking crucifix.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

Angry, frustrated, he rips the metal handrail off the elevator wall. DING. A PERSON enters. Guillermo holds the handrail at his side.

GUILLERMO

Hey, hi, how are you.

20 INT. MANSION - FOYER - NIGHT (N1)

20

A quieter moment. Like the calm before the final battle in an action movie. Colin, now with a few stripes of camo facepaint and wearing a Rambo-ish bandana, finishes putting THREE SNAKES in a hole in the bottom stair, covering it with straw. Nadja holds the Nadja Doll, whose hair is also now blonde. The Guide dries her just-dyed, wet hair, which is now BROWN -- like Nadja's usual hair.

THE GUIDE

Ready!

NADJA

(to Laszlo)

So this is really good-bye?

LASZLO

Afraid so. I must see my plan through. It has many steps.

Nandor has been sitting on the stairs, lost in thought. He finally stands.

NANDOR

Housemates. Friends. The Guide.

THE GUIDE

Hello!

NANDOR

A great enemy is upon us: Joanna Roscoe and her Army of Channel 8 viewers. This is not the first foe we have met, nor will it be the last. They may outnumber us. They may have their satellite truck and their Sky High news chopper or whatever the fuck. But what do we have?

THE GUIDE

The skull of Orson Welles.

NANDOR (CONT'D)

Each other.

(CONTINUED)

NANDOR (CONT'D)

Each other. Look at us, running this way and that, insisting upon our own plans. But we all have a part to play in this, and play it we must. Together.

The camera PANS as Nandor's words land on the vampires: Colin trying to pour a bag of marbles into a jar, using a funnel. Laszlo holding his burlap sack. Nadja and The Guide, holding their go-bags.

NANDOR (CONT'D)

For this shit-hole on Staten Island is our home. And thirty years from now, when you are sitting by that fireplace with a little ghost dolly on your knee and she asks you, "What did you do in the great vampire battle?" You won't have to say, "Well, dolly, I shoveled shit in Louisiana" --

GUILLERMO (O.C.)

Okay, I'm back. You guys can relax. I have a plan.

Guillermo enters, leftovers in hand, immediately trips a wire. A rope wrapped around the chandelier hoists Colin up by his ankle to the ceiling.

COLIN

(upside down, hanging)

Not exactly how that was supposed to work. But solid proof-of-concept, right?

In the BG, Nadja and The Guide try to help bring Colin down, but they can't reach him. Nandor opens a drawer in the side table, pulls out a dagger and... precisely **THROWS THE DAGGER** to sever the rope, dropping Colin to the ground. Nadja helps Colin up.

NANDOR

(icy)

Actually, Guillermo. We are all okay. We are actually very good, thank you! We have our own plan.

GUILLERMO

Okay -- Wait, Nadja, why are you blonde? It looks good --

(CONTINUED)

NADJA

We don't have time to explain
everything you have missed!

GUILLERMO

I'm sorry I wasn't around, but --

NANDOR

It is fine. You are never around. I
get it. Things are changing. You
have your life. We have ours. And
if tonight has taught us nothing
else, it has taught us this: We can
survive quite easily without you.

Guillermo takes this in. It stings, but he's done arguing.

GUILLERMO

Okay.

NANDOR

Wait, what?

GUILLERMO

Sounds like you've got this. Good
luck.

Guillermo starts down the HALLWAY toward Nandor's Room. The
other vampires stare after him.

COLIN

I wouldn't go that way if I were
you. Take the stairs.

GUILLERMO

Why?

COLIN

You ever hear of a "Bouncing
Betty," aka a "*Schrapnelleminne*" in
the original German?

GUILLERMO

Whatever.

Guillermo goes up the FOYER STAIRS.

COLIN

(calling after him)
Just take the right-hand side.

21 INT. MANSION - MUSIC ROOM - NIGHT (N1)

21

Guillermo sits on the sofa with a Pepsi and some leftovers from his mother's dinner. He turns on the TV to CHANNEL 8 NEWS. (It is now "LIVE AT 11".)

HEATHER DUPONT

(on TV)

... And let's take a peek at the radar time lapse here on the WeatherWall, where our latest model is now showing that those mild showers won't be hitting the five boroughs until 4 a.m. at the earliest.

LISA LIPTON

(on TV)

So still time to pull in that lawn furniture.

TED SPINELLI

(on TV)

And speaking of unexpected waters, Joanna Roscoe is back with an update for us on that Staten Island water main break.

ON TV: The Main Studio throws to the live feed of Joanna.

JOANNA ROSCOE

(on TV)

Hi, Ted. I'm happy to report that this story finally has a happy ending. The water main has been sealed and the underground leaks have been brought under control.

GUILLERMO

(monotone)

Yay.

JOANNA ROSCOE

(on TV)

Now there is a small sinkhole, but this area will stay cordoned off to prevent it from widening until a street crew can come out to fill it in the morning...

ON TV: In the BG of Joanna's shot, Laszlo's jalopy screeches to a halt, and Nandor and Laszlo hop out.

(CONTINUED)

GUILLERMO

Of course...

ON TV: In the BG of Joanna's shot, Nandor and Laszlo slowly, slyly approach her with a large burlap sack.

JOANNA ROSCOE

(on TV)

But at the risk of being overly optimistic, it looks like residents are on their way to having their street back any moment now.

ON TV: Just as Nandor and Laszlo are about to throw the sack over her, the TV camera RACKS FOCUS TO THE BG, where the jalopy is rolling backwards through the frame. The SOUND of the jalopy's movement catches the vampires' attention.

NANDOR/LASZLO

(on TV)

No no no no no no.

GUILLERMO

Fucking idiots.

ON TV: The jalopy hits the sinkhole and lists a little. Then the weight of the jalopy makes the sinkhole widen until almost the entire jalopy is inside it.

JOANNA ROSCOE

(on TV)

Oh my. Lisa, Ted. Stay with me. Looks like this story is not quite over yet...

The doc cameras catch up to Nadja, Colin, and The Guide racing towards the sinkhole. Nadja, Laszlo, The Guide, and Nandor jump into the hole after the jalopy. Colin stands at the edge, looks down.

JOANNA ROSCOE

(to her camera)

A very odd -- and dangerous -- new development happening here. An antique car has rolled into the sinkhole, and a group of locals are now working together to retrieve it.

LASZLO

Initiate diversion, Colin Robinson!
Initiate diversion!

The camera WHIPS to catch Colin dowsing the inside of the news van with gasoline.

CONTINUED:

He pulls safety goggles from his vest pocket, quickly puts them on, then throws a road flare in the van. The van EXPLODES. The camera WHIPS over to catch Sean on his porch, watching.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

SEAN

Karma's a bitch, ain't it, Channel
8?

Sean takes a swig of beer and goes back inside his house.

23 INT. MANSION - MUSIC ROOM - NIGHT (N1)

23

Guillermo briefly startles at the SOUND AND LIGHT OF THE
EXPLOSION from nearby, outside. The TV goes to COLOR BARS.
Guillermo takes another sip of Pepsi.

GUILLERMO

Not my problem.

ON TV: Channel 8 cuts back to the Main Studio.

LISA LIPTON

(on TV)

Apologies to our viewers, but it
appears we have lost our Staten
Island feed.

TED SPINELLI

(on TV)

We're working to contact our team
to make sure everything's okay --

24 EXT. STATEN ISLAND STREET - NIGHT (N1)

24

The jalopy starts to FLOAT above the hole, the vampires'
hands clutching the bottom edge. Joanna rushes to the hole,
can't believe what she's seeing, runs back to her CAMERAMAN
and Producer.

PRODUCER

We lost the feed.

JOANNA ROSCOE

What? Keep filming. Just get it on
the memory card. Don't stop.

The jalopy is now high in the air, the vampires levitating
beneath it -- hanging like tentacles on a jellyfish. They fly
to the side of the hole and set down the jalopy. Colin claps.

JOANNA ROSCOE (CONT'D)

Are they flying? What the fuck is
happening? Call the station. Tell
them we're coming in with the tape.

(CONTINUED)

NANDOR

Where is the kidnapping bag?

LASZLO
Sack! Kidnapping sack!

THE GUIDE
Psst. Psst. Psssssst.

NADJA/LASZLO/NANDOR/COLIN
WHAT?!

The Guide points to Joanna and her crew piling into a CAR and driving off.

THE GUIDE
So I think Joanna got us all flying on tape. FYI.

NADJA
We have to follow that tape and then steal that tape and then destroy that tape!

LASZLO
Absolutely. Step Two of the plan.

NANDOR
This kind of feels like a different plan.

LASZLO
Nope, all the same plan.

The vampires all transform into BATS. Colin takes off in the direction they're flying, running at a full sprint.

INT. MANSION - MUSIC ROOM - NIGHT (N1)

Guillermo scrolls through PHOTOS of his family on his phone.

TED SPINELLI
(on TV)
Apologies, for the technical difficulties, folks, but I hear we have some truly... inexplicable footage from Joanna en route...

ON TV: We hear -- off-camera -- the sounds of the vampires rushing into the studio, and CHANNEL 8 EMPLOYEES objecting and then being silenced.

NANDOR (O.C.)
Move.

The SOUND of a news staffer being thrown violently against a wall.

NANDOR (O.C.) (CONT'D)

Move.

The SOUND of another news staffer being thrown violently against a desk.

LASZLO (O.C.)

Joanna Roscoe! Show thyself!

STAFFER (O.C.)

Do you have IDs...?

COLIN (O.C.)

Hand it over, camera jockey! Damn, what's the zoom ratio on this? 16x?

LISA LIPTON

(on TV)

Ladies and gentlemen, one moment.
Bit of confusion here in studio.

TED SPINELLI

(on TV)

Who are you people? This is a
closed set and...

ON TV: Lisa and Ted's attention is suddenly -- hypnotically --
fixed on someone off camera.

NANDOR (O.C.)

(on TV, very off-mic)

You will fall asleep and forget
everything that happened here
tonight.

ON TV: Lisa and Ted slowly slump in their chairs and slide to
the floor. Over the shot of the EMPTY ANCHOR DESK, we hear...

COLIN (O.C.)

(on TV)

I got Joanna's camera!

NANDOR (O.C.)

(on TV, sotto, off-mic)

What about all the people who just
saw Lisa Lipton and Ted Spinelli
get hypnotized?

NADJA (O.C.)

(on TV, sotto, off-mic)

We go on and hypnotize them, too?

NANDOR (O.C.)

(on TV, sotto, off-mic)

You are right. It is the only way.

ON TV: Nandor and Nadja take Ted and Lisa's seats at the
Anchor Desk.

NADJA

(on TV, hypnotizing)

To all of the viewers of the
Channel 8 News, you will remember
nothing out of the ordinary...

GUILLERMO

Eh, not a bad solution actually.
Can't say I would have had any
better ideas at this point.

NANDOR

(on TV, hypnotizing)

There was a very normal water main
break in Staten Island. That is all
ye know, and all ye need know.

(CONTINUED)

ON TV: Nandor and Nadja are just sitting there, staring at the newsroom cameras now. After a beat...

NANDOR (CONT'D)
(on TV, sotto, to Nadja)
So, do we just leave now?

NADJA
(on TV, sotto)
No, that will look suspicious for the humans just tuning in. Just... just read the words on the screen.

Nandor looks for the teleprompter, and when he finds it...

NANDOR
Hip hip pup-rade!

NADJA
Indeed. It is time again for Staten Island's annual puppy parade.

NANDOR
Which is always a barking good time. Here's hoping we have some nice weather for these promenading pooches.

NADJA
And now let's turn it over to, um, Colin Robinson with the weather. Seems like a wet one out there tonight, right, Colin Robinson?

The news broadcast switches to Colin standing in front of the GREEN-SCREEN WEATHER MAP. Colin is in the middle of removing the memory card and destroying the camera, but he subtly hides it when he realizes he's on. Also in the frame: Heather dead on the floor, being feasted on by The Guide. Colin pops the memory card in his jacket pocket and doesn't miss a beat.

COLIN
Not as wet as it could have been, Nadja, but still -- no fun for anyone who forgot their umbrella today. Let's take a look at the ol' News 8 WeatherWall and see what's up. This patch here --

Colin gestures to some blood spatter on the green-screen.

COLIN (CONT'D)
Oh, that's, uh, just a bit of
schmutz there on the ol'
WeatherWall.

Colin wipes away the blood, smearing it. He points to another
part of the green-screen.

COLIN (CONT'D)
But this blue patch here, that's a
bit of good news.

The Guide sees she's on camera and tries to drag Heather's
body away surreptitiously.

COLIN (CONT'D)
And that pesky storm we were
worried about? Well, she's headed
out to sea -- Bon voyage! So New
Yorkers can rest easy and enjoy a
little sunshine this weekend.
Perfect weather for a puppy parade!

NADJA
Well, our four-legged friends will
certainly be happy to hear that.

NANDOR
And now we turn to... Laszlo
Cravensworth, who better be telling
me my New York football Giants are
raring to go for this Sunday's game
against the Cowboys.

Shot WIDENS to reveal Laszlo at the other end of the Anchor
Desk.

LASZLO
From your lips to Coach Daboll's
ears, Nandor. Big Blue is having a
big season, but the Cowboys are on
a roll themselves. So let's just
say that for either team, the road
to a W is going to be paved with
blood, sweat, and tears. Speaking
of hard match-ups, an absolute nail
biter tonight at the Garden, but
the Knickerbockers managed to beat
the Jazz at the buzzer. Back with
this and more, after the break.
Nadja?

NADJA
Thank you, my love.

27 INT. MANSION - MUSIC ROOM/BACK STAIRS/HALLWAY - NIGHT (N1) 27

In the MUSIC ROOM, Guillermo watches the broadcast wrap up.

NADJA

(on TV)

Well, that is it for us tonight,
New York.

NANDOR

(on TV)

And from everyone at the Channel 8
News:

NADJA

(on TV)

Good-bye.

NANDOR (CONT'D)

(on TV)

Good-bye.

ON TV: Nadja and Nandor have muted canned banter as they straighten their papers and the news credits roll.

Guillermo TURNS OFF THE TV, exits toward the BACK STAIRS. The doc crew follows.

GUILLERMO (T.H.)

I don't know. Obviously I'm glad
the vampires' plan worked out. I
don't want anything bad to happen
to them.

Guillermo continues down the stairs.

GUILLERMO (T.H.) (CONT'D)

I just thought, if I was giving up
my place in my real family, I'd
never have to worry about my place
in this one.

Guillermo arrives at the HALLWAY.

GUILLERMO (T.H.) (CONT'D)

I guess I always imagined the
hardest part about being a vampire
would be keeping your identity a
secret. But I guess the hardest
part is who you leave behind. You
know, the good-bye.

As Guillermo walks down the Hallway toward the Foyer, a barrage of Colin's BOOBY TRAPS start launching. Guillermo sprints, barely a step ahead of darts, blades, marbles, popping explosions, a falling chandelier, flames coming from every direction, and more. Guillermo SCREAMS. He arrives at the end of the Hallway, panting.

(CONTINUED)

GUILLERMO (CONT'D)
What the fuck is happening?!

END OF EPISODE