

Welcome anyone! This is one of our unfinished episodes. The script is mostly unrevised, so any grammar check/sensitivity reading will have come after. You may see some highlighted parts, which are usually notes to check accuracy or pronunciation notes for our cast. Here, you get to see our writer's stream of thought, so please be kind and remember that what you see in the final product is never a first draft! With that, please enjoy!

EPISODE 18 - UNTITLED

[TRANSITION]

INT. ASPHODEL'S OFFICE.

AXEL. Ahem. Sorry, what were you saying?

ASPHODEL. No, you're good! I was just complaining, really. Mother is always breathing down my neck about these things and I really wish she would lighten up sometimes. Maybe that's not fair of me.

AXEL. I think it's understandable. You know you can always talk to me about stuff, though. Right?

ASPHODEL. *(with a smile)* Some things. But you know there are confidentiality rules I have to follow.

AXEL. Of course.

ASPHODEL. Want more coffee?

AXEL. No, I'm good for now.

ASPHODEL. I appreciate you staying last night, by the way. We got a lot done; my mother was pleased.

AXEL. Well that's always good.

ASPHODEL. And rare, nowadays.

AXEL. How come?

ASPHODEL. Oh, you know. It's a stressful position.

AXEL. Yeah. What kinds of things is she dealing with?

ASPHODEL. The usual. Really it's not our responsibility-

AXEL. Yeah, sorry. Just really curious. Force of habit.

ASPHODEL. From what?

AXEL. Well, I was also running for premiere. I just like to know what's going on.

ASPHODEL. Well I appreciate that about you. But we have to focus on our work, right? Can we maybe change the subject? I'd love to hear how your parents are doing. It's been forever since I've seen them.

AXEL. Oh, they're doing well. Same old parents, you know.

[AXEL FIDDLES WITH THE RECORDER IN HER BAG.]

ASPHODEL. I'm sure they're better than that. What are you doing?

AXEL. Ah, nothing. Sorry. I was just checking if my... keys were in my bag.

ASPHODEL. Oh. Well, ah. When can I see them again? I'd love to visit sometime. If that's alright, of course.

AXEL. (*sincere, focused*) They'd love to see you, Asphodel. Ever since I told them we were talking again they've been asking me every time we call if I'm going to bring you over.

ASPHODEL. That's sweet.

AXEL. (*laughing*) Yeah, you say that now. But my dad'll talk your ear off as soon as you get there.

ASPHODEL. So nothing's changed. (*giggling*)

AXEL. Ha ha. No, it'll be worse than usual, I promise. Ever since they found out your mom was running they've been grilling me about you. But... I don't mind it too much. They like to know what's going on. Of course, I only tell them certain things. Confidentiality.

ASPHODEL. Right.

AXEL. Hey, uh, speaking of that-

ASPHODEL. Hey Axel?

AXEL. Yeah?

ASPHODEL. I feel like you don't trust me.

AXEL. What? I-

ASPHODEL. Listen. You've shown me that you care about what's going on, genuinely, and I really appreciate that. Last night you even stayed after hours to help *me*, and that shows that you care about me too. I know I haven't done much like that, but... I care about you too, Axel. A lot.

And I tell you as much as I can, because I trust you, alright? I want you to know that I would share everything with you if I could. But sometimes when you push for information it feels like you don't trust that I... that I've already given you everything I can. It's like you think I *don't* trust you, or that I *don't* care.

AXEL. Asphodel...

ASPHODEL. Just, tell me what I can do to show you.

AXEL. I... you, care about me?

ASPHODEL. Yes, you idiot. I always have. That's the whole reason-

[BRIEF PAUSE]

AXEL. The whole reason...?

ASPHODEL. Why I got so... angry at you. So bitter. I just... I've *really* missed you, Axel.

AXEL. (*a little choked up*) I missed you too.

ASPHODEL. Can... um...

AXEL. Come here.

[HUG.]

ASPHODEL. I'm sorry.

AXEL. I'm sorry too.

ASPHODEL. If... if it helps, I'll tell you what's going on with my mom.

AXEL. Really?

ASPHODEL. Yeah. It might help to get some of it off my chest.

AXEL. Yeah. Yeah, okay.

ASPHODEL. Um. What... what do you want to know?

AXEL. What her goals are, mostly.

ASPHODEL. *(hesitant)* You can't share this, you know that.

AXEL. Yeah, of course.

ASPHODEL. She's planning on industrializing more areas of the islands. Similar to the dam, kind of. But more. For example, you know how Island 7 is quite... forest-y.

AXEL. Yeah.

ASPHODEL. She's decided that that's all resources we can use. That we *should* be using. So, you know. Tearing all that down, etcetera.

AXEL. That's not right! She can't-

ASPHODEL. There's not much I can do about it.

AXEL. There has to be something.

[AXEL STANDS, AND ACCIDENTALLY DROPS HER RECORDER]

AXEL. Shoot.

[SHE GRABS IT, TRIES TO SHOVE IT IN HER BAG]

ASPHODEL. Is that...

AXEL. Sorry, it's just-

ASPHODEL. Are you recording this?

AXEL. Of course not! I mean, I-

ASPHODEL. You *are*! What is *wrong* with you?!

AXEL. Asphodel-

ASPHODEL. Don't "Asphodel" me, I-I trusted you! I said that whole thing about-

AXEL. It's not what it looks like!

ASPHODEL. I'm not stupid, Axel!

AXEL. No, no you're not. I just-

ASPHODEL. So, so was any of it ever real?! Being friends with me? Helping me? Inviting me to dinner? Any of it?!

AXEL. Of course it was! Of course it was real!

ASPHODEL. *That was a rhetorical question!* It doesn't—doesn't matter if any of it was genuine or honest or true, you were *using* me!

AXEL. Asphodel, I love you.

ASPHODEL. *You can still use someone if you love them, Axel.*

AXEL. I was going to tell you...

ASPHODEL. When? When were you going to tell me that you've been *spying on my mother and I*? How did you think that was gonna go, Axel?

AXEL. Not like this. It wasn't supposed to be like this.

ASPHODEL. I- (*deep breath*) Ms. Moore, you've broken policy.

AXEL. Asphodel-

ASPHODEL. (*a little choked up*) You've- you've recorded my voice without my permission during a private meeting. You've violated my trust and the trust of everyone here.

AXEL. Asphodel, don't do this-

ASPHODEL. Ms. Moore, your employment is being terminated. Please get your things and leave.

AXEL. I didn't want to hurt you, Asphodel, I love you, please-

ASPHODEL. *Leave, Axel. Just... just go.*

[A SILENCE. A LONG, BITTER SILENCE.]

ASPHODEL. *Go.*

[AXEL LOUDLY GATHERS HER THINGS, TURNS OFF HER RECORDER,
AND RUNS OUT OF THE ROOM, SLAMMING THE DOOR BEHIND HER.
ASPHODEL COLLAPSES INTO HER CHAIR AND CRIES.]

[TRANSITION]