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### Libby in Limbo

Moriah Claire Hall

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Libby in Limbo

By

Moriah Hall

An Undergraduate Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the  
Midway Honors Scholars Program  
Honors College  
and the  
Honors-in Media and Communications  
College of Arts and Sciences  
East Tennessee State University



Moriah Hall

4/15/23

Date



Martin Walters, Thesis Mentor

4/15/23

Date



Shara Lange, Reader

4.18.23

Date

## Table of Contents

<b>THESIS</b> .....	<b>2</b>
INTRODUCTION:.....	3
LITERATURE REVIEW: .....	5
METHODOLOGY: .....	7
DISCUSSION:.....	8
<b>PRODUCTION PLAN</b> .....	<b>9</b>
PROJECT OVERVIEW:.....	10
<i>Title:</i> .....	10
<i>Log Line:</i> .....	10
<i>Short Project Description:</i> .....	10
<i>Long Project Description:</i> .....	10
<i>Bios of Key Crew and Talent:</i> .....	13
<i>Budget:</i> .....	13
PRE-PROD TECHNICAL: .....	14
<i>Technical Specs (production, post-production, and delivery):</i> .....	14
<i>Production Schedule:</i> .....	14
POSTPRODUCTION/DISTRIBUTION:.....	16
<i>Preliminary Credits List:</i> .....	16
<i>Deliverables List:</i> .....	16
<i>Distribution:</i> .....	16
<i>Production Elements:</i> .....	17

# THESIS

## Introduction:

*Libby in Limbo* is a scripted narrative podcast that follows Libby as she moves back to her small hometown, gets a job as a librarian, and learns to navigate life in a small, tight-knit community. This podcast will serve two main purposes: to create entertainment media about a library that does not promote harmful stereotypes about libraries and to create awareness and accessibility of scripted podcasts.

Media, specifically entertainment media, has fostered many stereotypes about libraries. Unfortunately, the majority of these stereotypes are wrong and tend to dissuade people from visiting libraries. Because knowledge and learning are crucial to the development of individuals and societies, libraries are vitally important. By causing people to both consciously and subconsciously believe and spread stereotypes about libraries, media causes libraries to be underutilized and neglected. Libraries provide a unique opportunity to grow and learn. However, stereotypes of libraries harmfully affect the frequency with which people patron the library.

While there are many true stereotypes of libraries, such as passports to adventure and treasure troves of knowledge, there are also many false stereotypes of libraries. Two such stereotypes are that libraries are quiet and that libraries are boring. Libraries are far from quiet. Libraries are a place to socialize and visit with the community. There may be rooms set aside for quiet work, reading, and study, but the primary hub of the library should be a place to socialize and become invested in the community. Libraries are one of the last places in America where people from every race, religion, culture, economic status, and background can gather for the same purpose: to learn. The content of a library does not change depending on the person. The same information is available to everyone for free. Because of this, libraries are a melting pot of personalities and ideas. This makes a library the perfect place to create friendships with people from many different backgrounds and to learn from each other, not just from the materials offered by the library. Another stereotype is that libraries are boring. This is a vastly believed cliché and is completely false. Libraries offer books, audiobooks, DVDs, eBooks, computer access, Wi-Fi, a multitude of educational classes, and more. All of these things are free. The library should never be considered a boring establishment.

So, if libraries are not quiet and boring then what are they? Libraries are educational. Libraries are a prime source of information for anything from researching to learning a new skill. The human brain needs to be constantly learning. The brain is like a muscle. It needs to be continuously used or it will not work as well as intended. People use gyms to strengthen their muscles. Likewise, libraries exist to strengthen the brain. If muscles are not used and exercised, they stop working altogether. The same is true for the brain. It needs to be used and exercised, and reading is a primary way of accomplishing this. Libraries are arsenals. It has often been said that the pen is mightier than a sword. Knowledge is power. Therefore, a library is the greatest arsenal one could have. From Shakespearean insults to how to survive an apocalypse, a library

can prepare one for any event. Lastly, libraries are treasure troves. They are magic portals leading to different worlds. There are no boundaries when reading. One can travel the world and not spend a penny. One can experience as much wonder as one has imagination.

*Libby in Limbo* is created to stymie common stereotypes and challenge preconceived ideas about libraries. Because *Libby in Limbo* a situational comedy, not all elements of the library depicted will be completely accurate to the functioning of a typical library. However, each story is based on actual events. While details may be exaggerated at times, *Libby in Limbo* stays true to the values of a library. Negative stereotypes have been intentionally avoided in the production of this podcast.

The second purpose *Libby in Limbo* will serve is to create awareness and accessibility of scripted podcasts. *Libby in Limbo* will adhere to a sit-com-style storyline. Most scripted podcasts are either drama, action, or adventure. Additionally, scripted podcasts generally have some sort of cost associated with them. There are only a very few scripted podcasts available for free.

Traditional nonfiction podcasts and scripted fictional podcasts appeal to two very different audiences, therefore traditional podcasts should not be considered a competitor for scripted podcasts. The top competitor for scripted podcasts is audiobooks. Scripted podcasts are superior to audiobooks in several respects. Scripted podcasts are, by nature, written as easy-to-consume, bite-sized segments. They are perfect for those who only have the time or the attention span for a small portion of a story. Where audiobooks have chapters that make up a larger story, scripted podcasts have episodes that make up a larger story. The difference between these two styles of storytelling is that each episode of a scripted podcast has a clear beginning, middle, and end. Each episode is its own story, as well as being part of a larger story. Chapters in an audiobook, on the other hand, do not have that same sense of completion or firm stopping place.

Moriah Hall's love of storytelling and audio production sparked the creation of this podcast. As an aspiring audio editor, Hall is excited to work on a major project like *Libby in Limbo* to demonstrate and cultivate her audio recording and editing skills. Hall's experience working in a small-town public library for four years inspired her to create a serial narrative located in a library setting. From the kitten Hall and her co-workers raised in the library to a drug bust in the magazine section, there was always something interesting going on in Hall's library. She loves both libraries and scripted podcasts and desires to share that love with others.

## Literature Review:

Many scripted podcasts guided the creation of *Libby in Limbo*:

### **The Unexplained Disappearance of Mars Patel** – Key Element: Dialogue

*The Unexplained Disappearance of Mars Patel* uses dialogue as the primary method of introducing the characters' personalities and giving listeners the backstory of the situations. The pacing of the dialogue, the unique voices of the characters, and the world-building sound effects make this podcast a great example of what a scripted podcast should look like. *Libby in Limbo* will emulate these three elements.

### **The Far Meridian** – Key Element: Sound Design

*The Far Meridian* takes place in numerous different locations. The sound design does a great job of creating space in the room and demonstrating the environment around the characters. While *Libby in Limbo* will not incorporate as many settings, the sound design should still enable the listeners to visualize the room and where the characters are located in the room.

### **Six Minutes** – Key Element: Episode Length and Music

*Six Minutes* is a prime example of a scripted podcast with short episodes. Not counting credits, ads, and an introduction, each episode is approximately six minutes long. Additionally, the editors do a great job creating the world with sound effects and incorporating music to add to the drama. *Libby in Limbo* will have a short run-time and use the same world-building sound effects and music techniques.

### **The Bright Sessions** – Key Element: Dialogue

*The Bright Sessions* uses dialogue and conversation to drive the story. The conversations are very natural and utilize silence to evoke emotion. The unique personality of each character is also portrayed very well. *Libby in Limbo* will similarly be dialogue driven which will help carry the story.

### **Geek by Night** – Key Element: Introduction and Exposition

The first scene in *Geek by Night* is a first-person narrative that gives the listeners a quick backstory to orient the listeners. The same technique will be used in *Libby in Limbo* to summarize a large part of Libby's backstory.

### **Various Sitcom TV Shows** – Key Element: Humor

*Libby in Limbo* will be written as a sitcom. However, since there are no scripted podcasts that are primarily written as a sitcom, the closest comparisons are TV shows like *The Office*, *Community*, *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, *Superstore*, *New Girl*, and *AP Bio*.

Libby in Limbo



## Methodology:

*Libby in Limbo* was completed in three stages: pre-production, production, and postproduction.

Pre-production began on January 17, 2023. The first step of production was creating the storyline and characters. This step required the most amount of time since it involved a lot of brainstorming, refining, and development. The second step was creating the production plan which includes all the details for the podcast such as a detailed project description, character descriptions, precedents, technical information, and distribution plans. Then the script was written. The preliminary draft was written by Moriah Hall using Celtx. Then, she sent the script to Zac Overbay, a Media and Communications student at ETSU with a talent for writing comedic scripts, to assist with adding to the humor of the show. An artist on Instagram, @kylobedrawing, was recruited to create art for the show. Lastly, casting calls were made and recording dates were scheduled.

Production began as soon as pre-production ended. *Libby in Limbo* was recorded in Warf-Pickel Hall, Audio Suite 101 on the ETSU campus. The equipment included two Shure SM7B Microphones and a Behringer X32 Compact Soundboard. Additional audio suites were available, as well as portable recording options for if the Audio Suite 101 did not function or if an actor needed the recording equipment to travel to them. Sound effects were recorded using a Zoom F6 Field Kit from ETSU's RTVF Department's Equipment Room. Techniques for media management and storage included clear labeling, ETSU's RTVF Department's Nexus server, and a Seagate Portable External Hard Drive.

Postproduction, arguably the hardest part of the podcast, was accomplished under a very intense time crunch. The first part of postproduction was the editing of the podcast. Pro Tools was the primary editing software used for *Libby in Limbo*. Adobe Premiere Pro was used to create the trailer for the podcast which was then posted to YouTube. *Libby in Limbo* was exported in .wav and .mp3 formats.

The second part of postproduction was publication and promotion. *Libby in Limbo* is publicly accessible on SoundCloud, Apple Podcasts, and Spotify. Rss.com was used to create an RSS feed for the podcast. *Libby in Limbo* is also posted on <https://libbyinlimbo.wixsite.com/home>. This website will create a relationship with the audience. The website includes information such as transcripts, notes, reviews, behind-the-scenes, photos, and information on how to donate to the podcast. Transcripts are especially important because they provide accessibility for deaf and hearing-impaired communities and those with auditory processing issues. An Instagram account and audio trailer were also created for advertising purposes. To build an audience and increase listeners, websites, show notes, transcripts, trailers, interviews, and social media will be used to promote the podcast's content. Canva will be the primary source of promotional material such as flyers and posts for the Instagram account and website.

## Discussion:

While the first two episodes of *Libby in Limbo* may be completed, there is still much work to be done before this project is completed. The accompanying production plan includes an outline for the rest of season one and a second season. Season one consists of ten episodes, so eight more episodes will be produced. Outlines of each of these episodes exist, all that remains is to turn these outlines into a completed script, record, edit, and publish the episodes. Additionally, season two is in its first stages of pre-production. The pitch is awaiting funding which will be acquired with a focus on the promotion of *Libby in Limbo*. More posts and behind-the-scenes content will be generated and posted to both Instagram and the website. A Patreon account will also be created to support the creation of season two.

One podcast is not enough to make people aware of the harm done to libraries by misguided stereotypes. Work will be done to create a larger community of people who are aware of this issue and can spark awareness in others. *Libby in Limbo*'s following will be the best way to begin this spread of awareness. A few non-fiction episodes with real librarians will be created between season one and season two to address and discuss the negative impact that stereotypes can have on libraries and the importance of having an accurate representation of libraries in the media.

While *Libby in Limbo* is a show created for entertainment, it has the potential to affect communities by creating novelty around a place assumed to be boring. This will bring more people into libraries which leads to more funding which will generate communities in which knowledge is not limited to those who can afford formal education. These communities will be filled with people who are intelligent and enjoy learning. Libraries will not be ignored or overlooked. Instead, libraries will be valued and viewed as a landmark everyone should visit regularly.

# PRODUCTION PLAN

## Project Overview:

### Title:

Libby in Limbo

### Log Line:

When Libby moves back to her hometown in Limbo, Wisconsin and gets a job as a librarian, she must learn to navigate life in a small, tight-knit community.

### Short Project Description:

This show takes place in Limbo, Wisconsin, a small town in the middle of nowhere in modern-day USA. Libby moved out of Limbo as soon as she could. Now, after earning an Interdisciplinary Social Science degree at New York University in New York City and failing to find a job, Libby's fiancé broke up with her. Now she has no place to live and no money, forcing her to move back in with her parents. The only job she can find is at the local public library. Limbo is as bland as a small town in Wisconsin can be. Libby despises living in Limbo, but she will soon figure out that it isn't the town itself, but the people that make Limbo special. Over the course of the season, she makes new friends, sees old friends, and adjusts to her new life. Libby realizes that life in a small town is not all bad, and there can be beauty even in things she doesn't initially like.

### Long Project Description:

#### Characters:

Since Libby in Limbo is consumed audibly and not visually, listeners will imagine their own unique image of the characters' physical attributes. The emotional image is the only part of the characters that will be shared.

Elizabeth (Libby), 24, is a sweet girl who is a bit bitter at first, so she keeps to herself but as she gets to know her co-workers more, she loosens up and they get to see her funny and more carefree side.

Simon, 26, is a nerdy guy who is very tech-savvy. He is the media and technology librarian and very smart, almost to the point where others have a hard time relating to him. He is very nice unless you try to prove him wrong. Simon has a crush on Libby and has a love-hate relationship with Josie.

Josie, 27, is very sweet and soft-spoken. She is the children's librarian and will do anything to help anyone out. Josie loves her job and loves working with children. She has a love-hate

relationship with Simon and serves as a best friend and source of exposition for both Libby and the listener.

Willow, 36, is the library director. She will not shut up about her crystal collection, and her entire personality is based on her zodiac sign, which is Aquarius.

Agnes, 83, is an old and bitter librarian. She is always in a bad mood, against any kind of change, and always looking for a reason to be upset. She hates everyone, and everyone hates her.

Deborah (Debbie), 48, is Libby's mom. She is the voice of reason in Libby's life and an exposition device for the listener.

### **Episode Synopsis:**

Each episode will be 10 minutes long. Each season will be 10 episodes long. Episode titles will be book titles. The podcast will be written as a sitcom, utilizing relatable emotions and reactions from the characters. The season will be mostly episodic, with each episode functioning almost as a stand-alone episode. Although, there will be some common themes and stories, as well as gradual character development and reoccurring characters throughout the season.

#### **Episode One: Pilot: The Odyssey**

The first episode opens with Libby explaining why she moved back to Limbo and got a job at the library. As Libby gets introduced to her new co-workers, so does the audience. Agnes is introduced as the season's antagonist. Also, the audience is introduced to Simon, Libby's co-worker who immediately develops a crush on Libby.

#### **Episode Two: Cat in the Hat**

While reading a book about cats during story time, Josie has all the kids meowing like cats. Suddenly, she hears a real meow. She finds a kitten outside and tries to hide it, but Libby and Simon discover the kitten. They try to hide the kitten from Agnes because if Agnes finds out, she will tell the library board. The kitten is eventually discovered, and they have to send it away. A nice family with little kids who are regulars at the library takes it home, saving it from the shelter.

#### **Episode Three: Fahrenheit 451**

A fire burns down a library in a neighboring town, so the library board mandates training for all librarians. Two firemen come to the library to train the librarians on how to use the fire extinguishers and run through the fire code. One of the firemen is Libby's high school crush, Ralph. She spends the episode flirting and not learning, which becomes a problem when a fire starts in the staff breakroom.

#### Episode Four: Crime and Punishment

The police station refuses to respond to any of the calls the library makes to report unruly patrons. The librarians see all the patrol cars across the street at the community center. They send Libby and Simon over as spies to see why the police are at the community center instead of responding to the librarians' calls. Libby sees a staff breakroom full of doughnuts and an officer eating one. She assumes that's why the officers are there, completely missing an arrest in the gym. Libby and Simon run into Ralph. There's miscommunication with the police, but it all gets worked out in the end.

#### Episode Five: Of Mice and Men

There's a mouse infestation. The librarians try everything to get rid of them. Libby is tasked with getting rid of the mice. Nothing works. Simon knows (or pretends to know) a little about mice, so Libby enlists his help. She catches feelings for him.

#### Episode Six: Dracula

This episode will be Halloween themed.

#### Episode Seven: Les Misérables

The library board is doing its yearly inspection. Everything must be up to code so there is a lot of running around, hiding things, making sure everything is ship-shape. But patrons keep making messes. Agnes doesn't follow the correct procedures because "I've been doing it this way for the past 60 years." So, Libby has to fix what Agnes does to make it up to code. They pass the inspection but only after a lot of close calls.

#### Episode Eight: The Old Man and the Sea

Weird things keep happening seemingly while the library is closed. Libby spends the episode trying to find out why. Turns out someone has been living in the library.

#### Episode Nine: The Grapes of Wrath

A patron comes in and complains about everything. She claims she returned something that she now has a \$500 fine for. She sues the library, specifically Libby who delivered the news. This episode is a lot of interviews with the staff.

#### Episode Ten: The Death of Ivan Ilyich

Agnes dies. The librarians plan a memorial party. Simon is about to ask Libby out when Libby's ex-boyfriend from high school shows up. He's the new history teacher at the high school, and Libby realizes she still likes him.

Season Two:

The summer reading program creates new conflicts and dynamics in a library. The new ‘villain’ will include Libby’s ex-boyfriend. The library board will also be a threat to the library as a whole with things like county budget cuts, etc. Libby will be fighting not only for herself but for her job.

**Bios of Key Crew and Talent:**

Moriah Hall – Moriah is a full-time student at ETSU with a major in Media and Communications and a minor in Radio-TV-Film. She enjoys editing audio and film and being on set during production. Her dream job is to be a freelance sound editor. She would love to work on podcasts and create one of her own. Until she can pursue freelance work full-time, she is eager to work in any capacity in production or post-production in the TV/Film/Radio field.

**Budget:**

Item	Anticipated Cost	Paid By
Crew Food Costs	\$50	Moriah Hall
Equipment Rentals	In-Kind	ETSU – RTVF – Equipment Room
Crew Production Time	In-Kind	RTVF Program
Hardware	Pre-Owned and In-Kind	Moriah Hall and ETSU RTVF Equipment Room and RTVF Audio Production Suite
Software	In-Kind	MCOM – RTVF Department
Distribution Platforms	In-Kind	Moriah Hall

## Pre-Prod Technical:

### Technical Specs (production, post-production, and delivery):

- iPhone SE camera for behind-the-scenes pictures and footage
- One (1) 32 GB memory card
- Recording Equipment: Zoom F6 (Field Kit from ETSU’s RTVF Equipment Room), Two (2) Shure SM7B Microphones, Behringer X32 Compact Soundboard (Warf-Pickel 101), Three (3) ElectroVoice RE20 Microphones (Warf-Pickel 101A), One (1) ElectroVoice RE20 Microphone, Behringer X32 Rack Mounted Soundboard (Warf-Pickel 101B)
- Other Hardware: MacBook Air (personal computer), the Macs in the Warf-Pickel Hall editing labs
- Software: Pro Tools, Adobe Premier Pro, Adobe After Effects
- Recording format: .wav and .mp3
- Media Management/Storage: Nexus, Seagate Portable 1TB External Hard Drive
- Other: Celtx, Microsoft Office (Word), SFX from Nexus, Self-Recorded Foley
- Distribution/Delivery: YouTube, SoundCloud, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, RSS.com, Wix, Instagram
- No new equipment or software will be used, so no additional training will be necessary. The equipment will be tested before each recording session to ensure that it is all still working smoothly. Additionally, if difficulties arise that Moriah cannot fix with the equipment or software, a meeting with a professional will be scheduled to find a solution.

### Production Schedule:

Date	Cast/Crew	Script Pages	Location
4/26/23	Moriah Hall Candy Bryant Grady Tester	All lines for each actor	Warf-Pickel Hall Audio Suite 101
4/27/23	Moriah Hall	All lines for each actor	Warf-Pickel Hall Audio Suite 101



Libby in Limbo

	Amanda Snead Ally Burgner		
4/28/23	Moriah Hall Hope Hiester	All lines for each actor	Warf-Pickel Hall Audio Suite 101

Libby in Limbo

## Postproduction/Distribution:

### Preliminary Credits List:

#### Crew:

Producer/Director/Production Sound Mixer/Editor/Writer: Moriah Hall

Composer: Bryan Pressley

#### Cast:

Elizabeth (Libby): Moriah Hall

Simon: Grady Tester

Josie: Allyson Burgner

Willow: Amanda Snead

Agnes: Candy Byant

Deborah (Debbie): Hope Hiester

#### Special Thanks:

Shara Lange, Martin Walters, Zach Overbay, Tim Altonen, ETSU MCOM/RTVF Department, ETSU RTVF Equipment Room, and the Clinton Public Library

### Deliverables List:

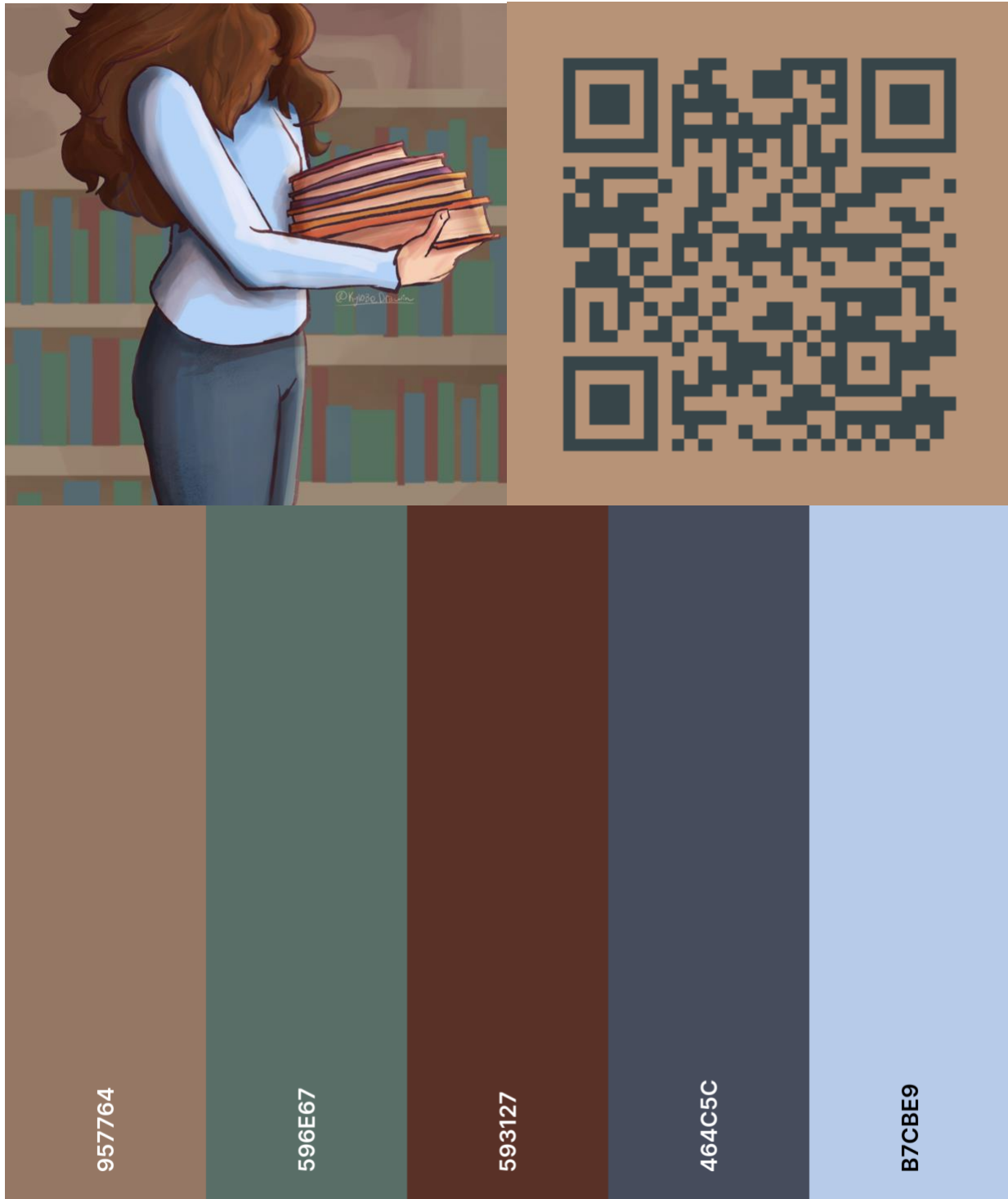
*Libby in Limbo* will be posted on SoundCloud, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and YouTube. Rss.com will be used to create an RSS feed for the podcast. *Libby in Limbo* will also be posted on <https://libbyinlimbo.wixsite.com/home>.

### Distribution:

*Libby in Limbo* will be posted on a website which will create a relationship with the audience. It will include information such as transcripts, notes, reviews, behind-the-scenes, photos, and information on how to donate to the podcast. Transcripts are especially important because they provide accessibility for deaf and hearing-impaired communities and those with auditory processing issues. An Instagram account and audio trailer will also be created for advertising purposes. To build an audience and increase listeners, websites, show notes, transcripts, trailers, interviews, and social media will be used to promote the podcast's content.

## Production Elements:

This includes the album cover, a QR code linked to the website, and the brand color palette.



# Libby in Limbo

CREATED BY  
**MORIAH HALL**



**APRIL 27, 2023**

THURSDAY AT 12PM

WARF-PICKEL 518

*Libby in Limbo* is a scripted podcast created by Moriah Hall for her senior thesis project. Join Moriah this Thursday as she presents and defends her thesis.



# Libby in Limbo

A scripted podcast by Moriah Hall

# Description:

When Libby moves back to her hometown of Limbo, Wisconsin and gets a job as a librarian, she must learn to navigate life in a small, tight-knit community.



# Characters:



**Libby:**  
the protagonist



**Willow:**  
the library director



**Simon:**  
the love interest



**Agnes:**  
a gouchy librarian



**Josie:**  
the best friend



**Debbie:**  
Libby's mom

# Purpose:



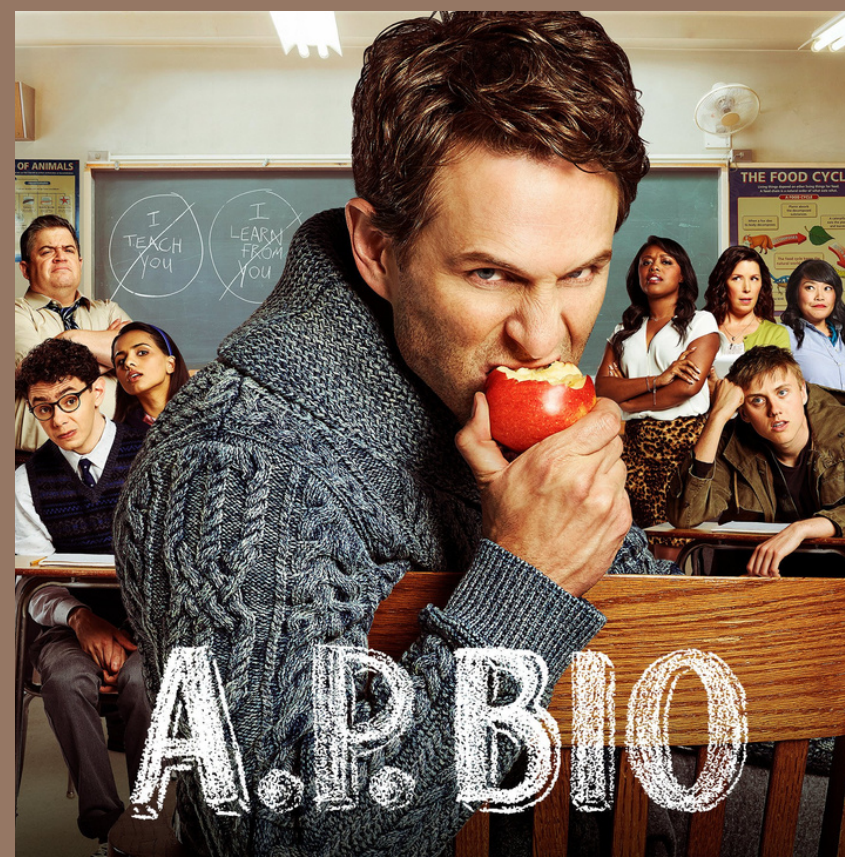
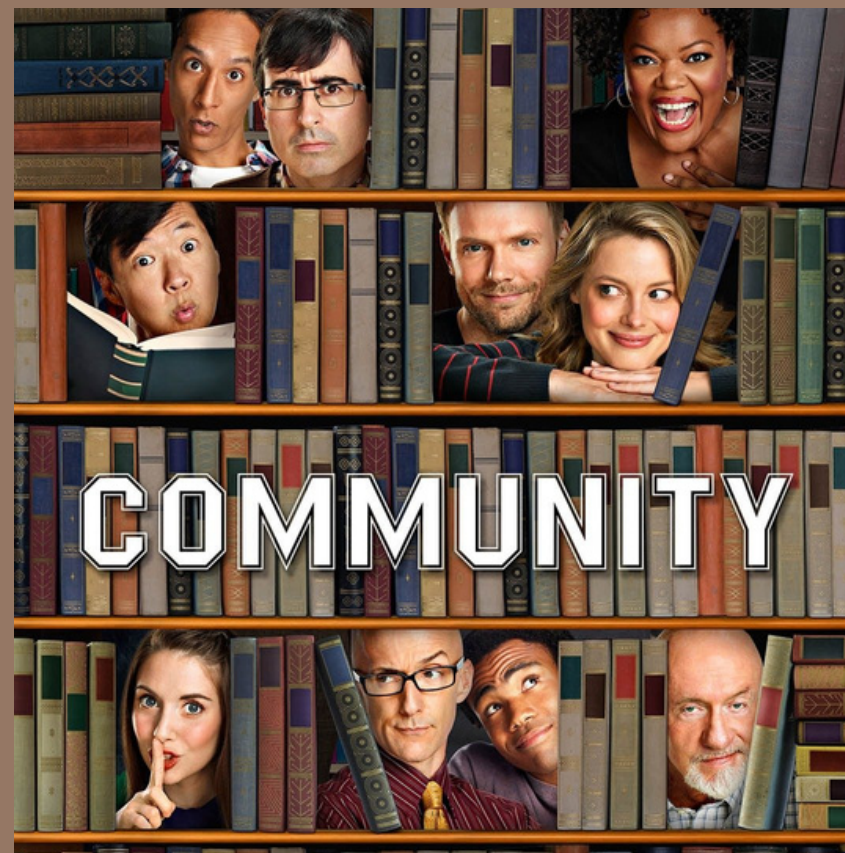
**to create entertainment media about  
a library that does not promote  
harmful stereotypes about libraries**



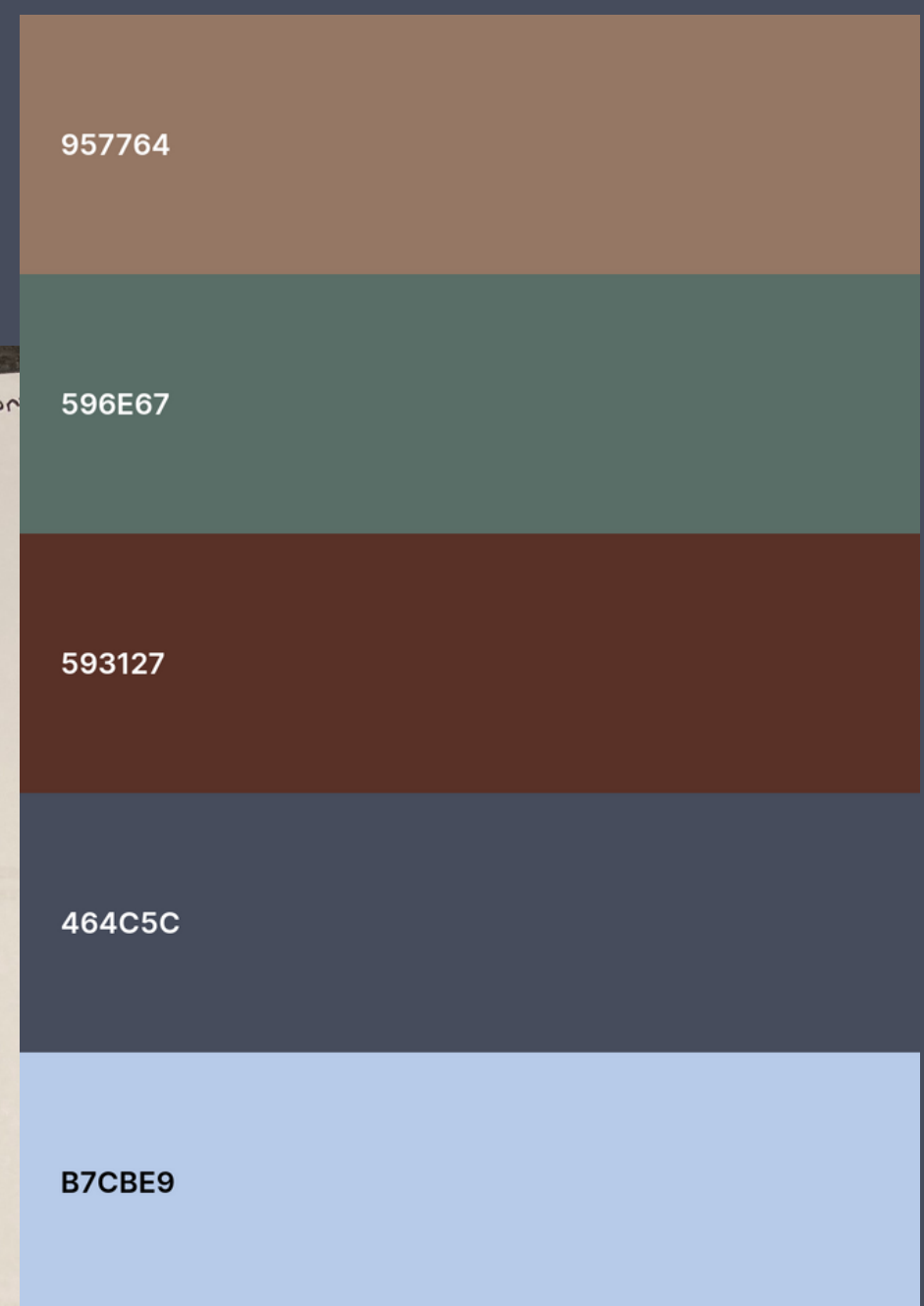
**to create awareness and  
accessibility of scripted podcasts**







# Behind the Scenes:



# The Future:



Season Two



Greater Engagement



Live Events and  
Special Episodes



Funding

# Episode Two - Scene Three

Rough Cut





[libbyinlimbo.wixsite.com](https://libbyinlimbo.wixsite.com)



# Libby in Limbo

A scripted podcast by Moriah Hall

Libby in Limbo

Moriah Hall

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EPISODE ONE: THE ODYSSEY

INT. LIBRARY - FRONT DESK - DAY

LIBBY

It all began a few weeks ago. I had just graduated from New York University with a degree in Interdisciplinary Social Science, and I was living it up in NYC. I had an incredible job lined up at the American Museum of Natural History, a gorgeous apartment, and the best fiancé a girl could ask for. And then...

EXT. DEBBIE'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY

In front of Libby's childhood home stands Libby, suitcase in hand and tears in her eyes. She rings the doorbell. Her mom, Debbie, opens the door.

DEBBIE

Libby?

LIBBY

(crying)

Hi, mom.

DEBBIE

Honey, what are you doing home?

LIBBY

The job fell through. No one is hiring someone with my major. I got evicted. And Alan dumped me.

CUT BACK TO NARRATION

INT. LIBRARY - FRONT DESK - DAY

LIBBY

And that's how I ended up back in Limbo, Wisconsin. I hate Limbo. I always have. It's as dull and uninteresting as a small town in the middle of nowhere can be. It's the type of place where everyone knows everyone and no one ever leaves.

SFX: recorder scratching

SIMON  
You left.

LIBBY  
Fair point.

SFX: recorder scratching

LIBBY  
I got out of Limbo as soon as I could.  
I graduated high school and was on a  
bus to New York the next day. I spent  
four amazing years living my best life  
in New York City. But all I have to  
show for it is a useless degree. I  
have no idea what I want to do with my  
life and to top it all off, I'm living  
in my parent's basement!  
(pause)  
What was the question?

SIMON  
I asked if you wanted a coffee from  
the break room.

LIBBY  
Oh. Sorry. No...

SIMON  
But now I'm invested...How did you end  
up working *here*?

LIBBY  
That's a bit of a longer story...

THEME SONG TRANSITION

INT. DEBBIE'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - DAY

Libby's mom, Debbie, knocks on Libby's bedroom door.

LIBBY  
Go away!

The door opens. Debbie walks in.

DEBBIE  
It's time to get up, Libby!

LIBBY  
I don't want to.

DEBBIE

You've been in bed for a full two weeks. It's time to get up and do something!

LIBBY

I *have* been doing stuff.

DEBBIE

All you've done is binge the same TV show you've been watching since high school.

LIBBY

I'm almost done with the seventeenth season...

DEBBIE

You need something productive to do.

LIBBY

But-

DEBBIE

Seventeen seasons is sad. They should have ended with season five.

Libby groans in recognition of her mom being right.

DEBBIE

I've been looking in the Help Wanted page in the newspaper for you and-

LIBBY

I told you, I don't want to work here. I don't even want to be here right now!

DEBBIE

Well where do you want to be?

LIBBY

I want to be in New York. With Alan.

DEBBIE

Oh sweetie! I know it hurts.

LIBBY

Do you mom? You and dad were high school sweethearts. I bet your heart has never been broken.

DEBBIE

I've had my fair share of broken hearts. And it breaks my heart to see some boy causing you this much pain.

LIBBY

He wasn't just some boy though. He was my fiancé. We were together for all four years of college. I was going to marry him.

DEBBIE

I know. I know. It'll be ok.

LIBBY

But I'm here.

DEBBIE

And what are you going to do about that?

Libby groans.

DEBBIE

Ok. Well, I'll just leave your breakfast and the newspaper here. I circled a job I thought you might be interested in.

Debbie sets down the dishes.

LIBBY

Not again! I'm not interested in your job searching help!

DEBBIE

If you're going to live here, you're going to need a job.

LIBBY

But the only jobs you can find for me are awful!

DEBBIE

That dog walking one didn't look too bad.

LIBBY

I'm allergic to dogs.

DEBBIE

Well, what about that job as a Spanish tutor?

LIBBY

I haven't spoken Spanish since I had to take it in high school.

DEBBIE

Fine, then don't apply. But at least look at the listing. It's the only circled in red.

Debbie walks out of room. Libby groans, rolls over, and opens newspaper.

LIBBY

(under her breath, mocking, scoffing)

*It's the one circled in red.* Let's see what job she found this time...Wanted: Librarian. Knowledge of the alphabet required. Interpersonal skills preferred. Blah blah blah. Walk-in interviews welcome.

(to herself, pondering)

I guess I do need a job. And I can always quit. And who knows, it could be fun.

INT. DEBBIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Libby walks upstairs and into the kitchen. Debbie is cooking breakfast.

DEBBIE

Why hello there stranger! What brings you so far from your bedroom? And all dressed up too!

LIBBY

I have a job interview.

DEBBIE

Really? That's great sweetie! Where at?

LIBBY

The library.

DEBBIE

Oh! I have some books I need to return! Can you take them for me? Also I have some books I was going to pick up too and-

LIBBY

I'm already late, mom.

DEBBIE

Well, at least say 'hi' to Josie for me!

LIBBY

Ok. Bye.

DEBBIE

By sweetie! [door slams as Libby leaves] They grow up so fast...

INT. LIBRARY - MEETING ROOM - DAY

SFX: papers shuffling.

WILLOW

Well, your resume is quite interesting. New York University is very impressive. And you majored in Interdisciplinary Studies? What's that?

LIBBY

It's a combination of different classes with multiple concentrations. I studied a little bit of everything.

WILLOW

That's great...I'm sorry about your fiancé. We are one big family here in Limbo, so if you need anything, don't hesitate to let me know.

LIBBY

Right...Thank you? Um...how did you know about my fiancé...my ex?

WILLOW

Your mom told me. How is your mom? She hasn't been in since last week.

LIBBY

She's fine...I guess she comes in here a lot.

WILLOW

Oh yes! She's one of our regulars!

LIBBY

Great...

WILLOW

I just have one last question for you. What's your star sign?

LIBBY

My what?

WILLOW

Your sign sign. I'm an Aquarius.

LIBBY

Oh. Um. I think I'm a Pisces?

WILLOW

Great! We'll get along just fine then. Welcome to Limbo Public Library!

LIBBY

I'm hired?

WILLOW

Of course! When can you start?

LIBBY

Well, I don't really have anything else going on, so I guess right now.

WILLOW

Perfect! Follow me. I'll introduce you to the rest of the staff.

INT. LIBRARY - OFFICES - DAY

WILLOW

Here is our break room. And here is Josie's office. Josie is our Children's librarian.

JOSIE

Hi Willow! And hi Willow's friend!

LIBBY

I'm Libby. Nice to meet you.

WILLOW

Libby is our new assistant librarian.  
She's Debbie's kid.

JOSIE

Debbie? I love Debbie! She comes in  
all the time! How does she like that  
new series I recommended?

LIBBY

Um...I'm not sure...

JOSIE

No worries. I'll just ask her next  
time I see her. Nice to meet you,  
Libby! Glad to have you as part of the  
team!

LIBBY

Glad to be here...I think.

WILLOW

Josie, can you introduce Libby to the  
rest of the staff? I have a meeting  
with the library board in a few  
minutes and I need to prepare. You  
know how they can be...

JOSIE

Say no more! Simon's office is right  
next to mine, so we can go say hi and-

SIMON

Did someone say my name?

JOSIE

Speak of the devil. Simon, this is  
Libby. Libby, Simon. Simon is our  
media and technology librarian.

LIBBY

Nice to meet you.

SIMON

You're so pretty!

LIBBY

What?



SIMON  
(clears throat) I mean...welcome! Mind if I take your picture for our social media?

LIBBY  
Um...ok?

SIMON  
(rambling) We only have sixteen followers between the various platforms, but I'm hoping to double those numbers by the end of the year. The first step is to create bio posts for all our staff. Oh, Agnes! There you are. I need your picture too!

AGNES  
I don't want my picture plastered all over some face-gram or insta-book.

JOSIE  
Actually it's...nevermind...

AGNES  
You listen here new girl. You don't listen to a word these delinquents have to say. There's only one person who knows how things work around here, and that's me!

LIBBY  
I'm Libby. It's nice to meet you.

AGNES  
I know who you are. Your mom used to bring you in for story time. You were a biter, and you ate the books.

Two young boys run past shouting. Agnes runs after them.

AGNES  
Hey you! Stop running! And no yelling in the library!

SIMON  
That's Agnes. She's been here since the dawn of time, so Willow can't fire her without risking the wrath of the library board.

LIBBY

I remember her from when I was a kid.  
She used to scare me so much!

SIMON

She still has that affect on people.  
Just stay on her good side and you'll  
be fine.

JOSIE

Simon, can you go show Libby how to  
work the front desk. I have to finish  
preparing story time for next week.  
It's all about cats and -

SIMON

Interesting...have fun with that. Come  
on, Libby.

SIMON'S VOICE FADES AND THEN COMES BACK IN A DIFFERENT  
SETTING

INT. LIBRARY - FRONT DESK - DAY

SIMON

And that's how you do it! It's pretty  
simple actually.

LIBBY

I think I've got it.

SIMON

And if you don't remember you can  
always ask me for help.

LIBBY

So is this what you do? Just sit at  
the front desk all day?

SIMON

Yeah pretty much. And hey, there's a  
good chance that we will have similar  
shifts, so we'll get to spend lots of  
time together.

LIBBY

Oh...cool...

AWKWARD PAUSE (whistle, awkward pause sounds)

SIMON

So, what brought you to Limbo Public Library?

LIBBY

Well, it all began a few weeks ago. I had just graduated from New York University with a degree in Interdisciplinary Social Science, and I was living it up in NYC. I had an incredible job lined up at the American Museum of Natural History...

LIBBY'S VOICE FADES INTO THE THEME SONG

EPISODE TWO: CAT IN THE HAT

INT. LIBRARY - FRONT DESK - DAY

Libby is checking out books and printing the receipt.

LIBBY  
Your books will be due back in two weeks. Have a great day.

JOSIE  
Hey, Libby?

LIBBY  
Hi, Josie. What's in the box?

JOSIE  
Nothing. Hey, is that your tuna sandwich in the breakroom?

LIBBY  
Yeah, why?

SFX: muffled CAT meow

LIBBY  
Josie? Was that a cat?

JOSIE  
What?

SFX: muffled CAT meow

LIBBY  
That! Josie, do you have a cat in that box?

JOSIE  
Keep your voice down! Someone might hear you!

LIBBY  
(loudly)  
Simon!

SIMON  
If you keep yelling like that, even Agnes will hear you...an then she'll be mad...

LIBBY

I need you to take over the front desk  
for a minute.

SIMON

Why? What's in the box?

JOSIE AND LIBBY

Nothing.

SFX: CAT meows

SIMON

Did you hear that?

JOSIE

Hear what?

SIMON

(suspicious)

What are you doing?

LIBBY

Braiding eachother's hair and painting  
our nails. Girl stuff. I'll be back  
soon.

INT. LIBRARY - KITCHEN - DAY

SFX: door shutting

LIBBY

Ok, Josie. What's going on. What's in  
the box?

JOSIE

So you know how I had story-time this  
morning?

LIBBY

Yeah?

JOSIE

Well, the theme was cats-

LIBBY

What does this have to do with  
anything?

JOSIE

If you give me a minute, I'll tell

you! I had all the kids pretending to be cats so they were all meow-ing.

LIBBY

I wondered what that racket was earlier. You'd think those kids had never heard a cat before.

JOSIE

(laughing)

I know, right! Anyways, after a few minutes I had the kids quiet down so we could keep reading. But someone kept meowing. It wasn't any of the kids, but we could all still hear a cat. We looked around the room for almost ten minutes and then we realized it was coming from the backdoor. So I opened it and...

LIBBY

And? And what?

SFX: box opening

JOSIE

I found this.

LIBBY

A kitten?

JOSIE

I know! She's so cute!

LIBBY

Yeah, but it's a cat. We aren't supposed to have animals in the building.

JOSIE

I know. You can't tell anyone! At least not until I figure out what to do with her.

LIBBY

You'd better figure it out fast. There's no way you can keep this hidden for long.

SFX: bang/knock on the door

JOSIE  
(whispering)  
What was that?

LIBBY  
Shhh!

Libby opens the door and Simon falls in.

JOSIE  
Simon?! What are you doing?

LIBBY  
Where you eavesdropping?

SIMON  
No, I wasn't eavesdropping! I was  
just...uh...checking the door  
for...termites...

Simon knocks on the door.

SIMON  
See, termite free!

JOSIE  
What did you hear, Simon?

SIMON  
Enough. And I want in. Hiding a cat  
from the others sounds exciting and  
today has been so boring.

LIBBY  
There's no way we are letting you in  
on this.

SIMON  
Why not?

LIBBY  
For starters, you can't keep a secret  
to save your life. You suck at lying.

SIMON  
I do not!

LIBBY  
Yes, you do. Remember last Tuesday?

SFX TO LAST TUESDAY

INT. LIBRARY - OFFICES - DAY

LIBBY

Simon, is that the last lemon cookie?

SIMON

Yeah, I figured if it hadn't been eaten by now, no one wanted it.

LIBBY

Agnes wanted it.

SIMON

What?

LIBBY

Yeah, she called dibs earlier. Did you not see the note that said "Save for Agnes"?

AGNES

WHO ATE MY COOKIE!

LIBBY

You're in for it now...those are her favorite.

AGNES

Simon, did you eat that cookie?

SIMON

N-n-no...

AGNES

When I'm through with you, you'll wish you had never stepped foot in this library! And I'm calling your mother!

SFX BACK TO PRESENT

INT. LIBRARY - KITCHEN - DAY

LIBBY

You suck at lying. So there is no way we can trust you to be in on this.

SIMON

Well, it's too late now. I already know. And if you don't let me help, I'll just tell Willow myself.



JOSIE  
He has a point...

LIBBY  
Fine! But when he betrays us, remember  
I was the one who was against this.

SIMON  
So can I see the cat now?

SFX: CAT

SIMON  
She's so cute! What are you going to  
do with her?

JOSIE  
I hate the thought of her going to a  
shelter. Can either of you take her?

SIMON  
My roommate is allergic.

JOSIE  
Libby?

LIBBY  
My mom doesn't allow animals in the  
house. She has something against pets  
I think.

SIMON  
Why can't you take her home, Josie?

JOSIE  
I already have three cats, and I'm  
technically not allowed to have more  
than two pets in my apartment.

SFX: CAT

SIMON  
Shh! You can't be that loud!

JOSIE  
I bet she's hungry. Libby?

LIBBY  
Ugh. Fine. She can have my tuna  
sandwich. But you guys owe me lunch.

SFX: Feeding cat

JOSIE

Have you guys ever heard of Dewey?

SIMON

As in the Dewey Decimal System?

JOSIE

No, Dewey as in the cat who lived in a library. Someone dropped him in the book drop one day and the librarians decided to keep him and let him live in the library.

LIBBY

No. No! We aren't keeping a kitten in the library. There's no way Willow would ever agree. And we can't keep her a secret forever.

SIMON

And if the library board ever found out, we'd be in big trouble!

JOSIE

It wouldn't be forever. Just until we found her a home. I'm sure we have a ton of patrons who would love to adopt a sweet little kitten.

SIMON

I guess keeping her here for a day or two wouldn't hurt anyone.

JOSIE

We could make toys out of the craft supplies from story-time. And we can take turns watching her during our shifts!

LIBBY

My mom is on a tuna sandwich kick, so I could bring more to feed her.

JOSIE

Perfect!

(to the cat)

How does that sound, Beatrix?

LIBBY  
Beatrix?

JOSIE  
Yeah, like Beatrix Potter.

SIMON  
I think she should be named Chess.  
Like the Cheshire Cat from Alice's  
Adventures in Wonderland.

LIBBY  
You can't name her. If you name her,  
then you'll get attached and never  
want to give her away.

JOSIE  
So what? Are we just supposed to call  
her Cat?

LIBBY  
Yes. And right now, Cat needs to go  
into hiding and we need to get back to  
work.

TRANSITION

INT. LIBRARY - FRONT DESK - DAY

SFX: Receipt printing

LIBBY  
Your books will be due back in two  
weeks. And are you sure you're not  
looking to adopt a kitten?

WOMAN  
I'm sure.

LIBBY  
Oh. Ok then. Have a nice day!

JOSIE  
(whispering)  
Libby!

LIBBY  
I've been trying all day, but no one  
wants a kitten.

JOSIE  
About that...Beatrix is gone.

LIBBY  
Who?

JOSIE  
The kitten! I know you said not to name her, but I can't just call her Cat and I love Beatrix Potter's books and-

LIBBY  
Did you say the kitten is MISSING?!

JOSIE  
Not so loud!

LIBBY  
(whispering)  
How could you let this happen?

JOSIE  
I turned my back for one second and when I turned back around, she was gone!

SIMON  
(running up)  
I just checked the children's section and the teen's section. I can't find her anywhere!

AGNES  
CAT! CAT! THERE'S A CAT IN THE LIBRARY!

LIBBY  
I think we've found her.

WILLOW  
What is all the ruckus about?

AGNES  
There's a cat! I just saw it by the biographies!

JOSIE  
Look! There she is!

SIMON  
I'll catch her!

SFX: Simon catching the cat dramatically.

SIMON  
I got her!

JOSIE  
Oh Beatrix! Are you ok? You poor thing! You can't scare me like that!

SIMON  
Beatrix? Libby said we couldn't name her. And if we could name her, it would be Chess!

WILLOW  
Wait, did the three of you know about this cat?

SFX: Shuffling around and "umms"

LIBBY  
We didn't not know about this cat.

WILLOW  
Simon? Josie?

SIMON  
Ummm...

LIBBY  
(under her breath)  
Shut up shut up shut up!

SIMON  
(in an outburst)  
Josie found it and we had to take care of her and-

AGNES  
I knew it! I'm reporting you all to the library board!

LIBBY  
You can't report us! We've done nothing wrong!

AGNES  
You brought an animal into a public

library! I will make sure you are  
prociuted to the fullest extent of  
the law!

WILLOW

That will not be necessary. Also it's  
not illegal to bring an animal into a  
library...

AGNES

But...but I'm allergic!

Agnes fake sneezes.

WILLOW

If you are having an allergic  
reaction, we have benadryl in the  
back. And if you need a ride to the  
hospital, I'd be happy to take you.

AGNES

I'll be fine as soon as this thing  
leaves.

WILLOW

The kitten will be removed from the  
library. And she didn't hurt anything,  
so, I see no reason to involve the  
library board.

LIBBY

What do you mean she's being removed?

JOSIE

Please don't take her to the shelter!

WILLOW

Don't worry. I overheard the Johnsons  
talking about how they are looking to  
adopt a cat. I'll give them a call.

LIBBY

The Johnsons?

JOSIE

I love the Johnsons. They have the  
sweetest little kids.

AGNES

Those kids are loud and messy.

WILLOW

She will be in good hands. And now,  
she needs to be in my hands and you  
all need to get back to work.

Josie, Libby, and Simon murmur goodbyes.

AGNES

Good ridance.

Agnes walks away.

SIMON

What now?

SIMON

We could get back to work?

LIBBY

Nah...

JOSIE

We could go find another kitten to  
rescue?

SIMON

Yeah, sounds good to me.

LIBBY

I don't really like those tuna  
sandwiches anyways.