

# Chaos Before the Show

“Thirty minutes! Thirty minutes until show time!” said the director of the performance.

“Has anyone seen Rebecca? I need to check her mic,” the sound technician called backstage. He likes to check everyone’s mic twice before they go on stage and was going around on his first round.

Backstage was very busy. People were getting finishing touches on their makeup, running lines last minute, nervously pacing, and setting up props. Yet, I couldn’t find Rebecca. I don’t have a specific title, but I do everything that isn’t done, like checking to make sure our leading lady is doing fine.

“Rebecca? Has anyone seen Rebecca?” I called out. Someone tells me they last saw her with Eve, our most talented makeup artist. So I ran over to the makeup station to see if Rebecca was there. She wasn’t there, but I saw Eve working on another actress. I walked over to her to ask where Rebecca went.

“Heeey!” Eve said to me, “Rebecca is looking beautiful tonight. She headed over to her dressing room to get into her costume.” I thanked Eve and headed to Rebecca's dressing room.

When I got there I saw the door open, so I walked in. Rebecca wasn’t there, but I found a cup of tea still steaming so she couldn’t have gone far. I also saw her dress for the first act still on a hanger. That’s weird, she should be in it already. By the mirror there was a green hair scrunchie, but Rebecca never wears a scrunchie and absolutely not a green one. The only person I know who wears a green scrunchie is Eve...

“AHHHHHH! HAS ANYONE SEEN THE TIARA? IT’S MISSING!” The director was in a frantic state running around yelling. I went over to her, my mind reeling. Two disappearances? This was getting worse and worse, how will the show go on?

I told the director that Rebecca was also missing and she almost collapsed. Thankfully, a lighting technician I haven’t seen before caught her. I didn’t expect him to be all the way back here instead of in the lighting booth. He must be new and not know his way around yet.

Once the director calmed down she asked, “How do you know Rebecca is missing? Isn’t she in her dressing room getting ready?”

“I went to check on her and I found the door open. I saw her dress still on the hanger and a steaming cup of tea. She obviously wasn’t going to leave.” I left out the green scrunchie because I didn’t want Eve to get in trouble until I knew for sure that it was her.

“Ugh! What are we going to do? The show must go on!” The director turned to her assistant and said, “Dave, you go tell Rebecca’s understudy, Megan, to get ready.”

“But what are we going to do about the tiara, Riley?” Dave asked as he was going to tell Megan.

She sighed and said, “I guess we’ll have to do without it somehow.” Riley then turned to me and said, “You keep looking for clues to where Rebecca and the tiara went.”

I ran to the last place where the tiara was kept. Wait! There was a break-in yesterday, maybe they stole the tiara! But why didn’t we notice it earlier? The place where the tiara was didn’t have any clues.

I bent down to tie my shoe and I noticed a little black cap on the floor by the leg of the table where the tiara was supposed to be. I picked it up and realized it was a flash drive cover. The only people who would have a flash drive would be the lighting technicians.

I headed over to the new lighting technician with a hunch.

“Hey are you our new lighting tech?” I asked him.

“Yup, I’m Thomas. Nice to meet you. What’s up?”

“Do you happen to know where the tiara was kept?”

“Ya. I’ll take you there.” He led me to a different place than where it was usually kept, like I suspected. Sure enough the tiara was in the spot he thought it was kept. I had solved one of the mysteries!

“I think this is yours,” I said as I handed him the flash drive cap.

“Thank you so much, I was looking for that!”

“No, thank you!” I said as I grabbed the tiara to bring it to Riley.

Riley was so happy and almost collapsed again, but this time no one was there to catch her. She ended up in a pile on the floor laughing and smiling. I left her with the tiara and I went to Eve because maybe I could also solve this mystery of Rebecca disappearing too.

“Hey Eve!”

“Hey! I remembered something else that happened before Rebecca went to get ready. She said she was going to make some tea because her throat was a little sore and that she needed to go to the bathroom.”

“Thanks so much Eve! That really helps the mystery, but I found your green scrunchie in her dressing room. I didn’t want to accuse you of making her disappear, but…”

“Oh! Don’t worry, I didn’t do it. Rebecca didn’t have a hair elastic and her hair was falling in her face and annoying her so I gave her my green scrunchie to borrow.”

“That makes a lot of sense. Now I just need to figure out where she went.”

I ran to the bathroom to see if Rebecca was there but all I found was Megan. Maybe she made Rebecca disappear so she could be the main part! But she wouldn't want to be the main part because she has laryngitis and lost her voice. Where could she be? A sudden thought popped into my head. What if she didn't even make it to the bathroom...

I walked out of the bathroom as I was thinking of where Rebecca could be, when I saw the soundproof recording room. It has one way glass, but I think it was installed wrong because I can't see in and anyone inside could see out. I decided to check in there just in case.

As I opened the door I heard yelling. "HELP! I'M TRAPPED IN HERE!" It was Rebecca's voice!

"Rebecca?"

"Finally! The door locked behind me when I came in because-

"You thought it was the bathroom," I said at the same time that Rebecca said, "-I thought it was the bathroom."

"Wait, how do you know?" Rebecca asked me as I was grinning.

"I figured it out by the clues in your dressing room and with Eve's help."

"Ya, I was looking for the bathroom and because this is a new theater, I walked in here and the door locked behind me. I realized that the one way glass was installed wrong and I could see out but you can't see in, so instead I yelled for someone to come. I also couldn't find the light switch so I don't even know what room this is."

"This is the recording studio, so it's sound proof."

"That explains why no one came to open the door..." Rebecca said with a look of realization.

“Now you better get into your costume and get ready to go on stage,” I looked at my watch and freaked out. “There is only 7 minutes to show time! Run! I’ll tell Riley you’re back.”

Rebecca ran to get ready and I ran to tell Riley and Megan that Rebecca was back.

Rebecca was a great leading lady. The show was amazing and there were no other troubles or mistakes the rest of the night.