

LORE ENFORCERS S01 E01 "Joe-meo and Juliet"

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The PRESS hums as it warms up for the day ahead. Around the room there are stray papers strewn over the floor. It has been some time since the room has been cleaned. EDEN, a smartly-dressed youthful and bubbly 20-year-old, meekly pokes her head through the front door of the press house. She is unsure if she has the right place.

EDEN

Hello?

A loud clattering can be heard coming from the floor above.

LOUIS (FROM AFAR)

Just a minute!

Eden walks into the store. She notices a large door on the printing press and stops, perplexed. LOUIS, in his 60s, wearing a thin moustache and an ugly suit, appears on the staircase. He realises that she has noticed the door on the press and rushes over to stand between her and the machine.

LOUIS

Ah - er - good morning! You must be Eden Taylor?

EDEN

Yes, Mr. Williams! That's me!

She extends her hand for a handshake. Louis looks her up and down, astonished, before staring down his nose at her.

LOUIS

My goodness! It's your first day; you're not getting paid yet! (a beat)

Eden quickly retracts her hand.

EDEN

Oh, no - I just...

LOUIS (CUTTING HER OFF)

This is the twenty-first century! Print text is in decline - we're not made of money here. We're made of...

Louis scans the press room, which is lined by wooden walls.

LOUIS (CONT'D)

Old trees, and...

(CONTINUED)

He continues scanning the room, and notices the papers strewn on the floor.

LOUIS (CONT'D)  
... more old trees. (A beat)

Eden is somewhat stunned by Louis' ranting.

LOUIS (CONT'D)  
Besides, I made it very clear in the job listing that this is an unpaid internship. So no pay, just experience.

Eden nods obediently. She doesn't want to protest.

LOUIS (CONT'D)  
Good... now...

Louis extends his hand for a handshake. Awkward pause - Eden doesn't know what to make of Louis. She slowly extends her hand to shake his.

LOUIS (CONT'D)  
Welcome, Eden, to Williams and Sons' printing house. I am Williams...'s son. (A beat) You can call me Louis.

EDEN  
Nice to meet you, Louis

Louis smiles slightly, and walks over to the door on the press.

LOUIS  
I saw you noticed this door here - I bet you're wondering what its purpose is.

EDEN  
Well, I was thinking it was just for mainten-.

Louis slams his hand against the door, cutting her off.

LOUIS  
Wrong! Purely decorative! (a beat) But look at the imagination on you. "Entering books"? Hah!

Eden chuckles lightly - she is uncomfortable.

A small bell hanging from the door chimes as JOE, in his 30s and dishevelled, enters the press room. He is wearing a LARGE BROWN COAT, which he hangs on the coat stand, shoulders slumped.

LOUIS  
Ah, Joe! Good morning.

Joe stays hunched, he's not in the mood for pleasantries.

JOE [GRUMBLING]  
Mornin'...

Joe looks up and notices Eden. He clears his throat, and looks back and forth between Eden and Louis, somewhat bewildered.

JOE [CONT'D]  
Good -- good morning?

Louis pats Eden on the shoulder.

LOUIS  
Joe -- I'd like you to meet Eden,  
our new intern! I'm sure you'll  
make her feel very welcome.

Eden steps forward, beaming.

EDEN  
It's a pleasure to meet you, Joe!

Joe shakes Eden's hand, but he is more focused over at Louis. Joe is pained by this situation.

JOE  
Louis, do you mind if we have a  
word?

LOUIS  
Not at all! Go ahead!

There is an awkward pause as Louis looks at Joe expectantly.

JOE  
In the office. Alone.

JOE and LOUIS exit through the door at the rear of the building, leaving Eden alone.

2

2 INT. WILLIAMS AND SON'S EMPLOYEE OFFICE - DAY

2

LOUIS follows JOE into the EMPLOYEE OFFICE. There are two desks; one is stacked with books, the other is completely bare. Louis closes the door behind him.

JOE  
Louis... an intern?

Louis chuckles to himself proudly as he adjusts his suit.

(CONTINUED)

LOUIS  
I know! Unpaid! I'm a genius!  
We'll save so much money...

Joe can't believe what he is hearing.

JOE  
You know what this job  
involves... but you want to bring  
in an intern?

LOUIS  
Well I don't know why you think  
she wouldn't be capable...

3                    3 INT. WILLIAMS AND SON'S PRESS ROOM - DAY                    3

LOUIS and JOE's animated motions can be seen through a window, but glass muffles their argument. Eden watches the two argue while slowly pacing back over to the door on the press machine.

4                    4 INT. WILLIAMS AND SON'S EMPLOYEE OFFICE - DAY                    4

JOE  
Please tell me she at least knows  
the ins and outs of this job.

LOUIS  
Oh, please, Joe - what difficulty  
is there in keeping an eye on a  
printing press?

Joe gives Louis a knowing look.

JOE  
You know what happens when things  
go wrong. You know why we've gone  
through three employees in the  
past year, Louis.

5                    5 INT. WILLIAMS AND SON'S PRESS ROOM - DAY                    5

EDEN is reaching for the door handle on the press machine.

6                    6 INT. WILLIAMS AND SON'S EMPLOYEE OFFICE - DAY                    6

LOUIS is becoming mildly irritated by JOE's protests.

LOUIS  
Two resignations and a workplace  
incident, Joe. Sometimes these  
things just happen at a printing  
company.

(CONTINUED)

Joe begins pacing slowly towards Louis - he's not happy.

JOE  
No, Louis. Papercuts "just happen". Ink spills "just happen". I've seen the news, I'd even accept that sometimes an office pyramid-scheme "just happens". [a beat] But you and I both know that at any other printing company...

Joe looks up and notices Eden is beside the press.

JOE [PANICKED]  
She's at the entry door.

Louis scrambles to his feet, rushing out of the office.

7

7 INT. WILLIAMS AND SON'S PRESS ROOM - DAY

7

LOUIS catches EDEN with her hand on the doorknob.

LOUIS  
Ah! That door is just wonderful decoration on that old press!

JOE follows Louis back into the press room. Eden slowly lets go of the handle

JOE  
Yes! The maintenance door! [a beat]

Eden is suspicious.

EDEN  
But Louis said it was for decoration, not maintenance?

Joe and Louis exchange glances, trying to think on their feet.

JOE  
Well - yes... it's for decoration and maintenance. Maintaining decoration.

Eden raises an eyebrow.

JOE [CONT'D]  
Ink refilling... and making sure that the decorating of the pages stays... decorating.

Eden rolls her eyes. Both Joe and Louis are strange! In the distance, a beeping noise can be heard.

(CONTINUED)

LOUIS

Ah - there's our job for today!  
Let me go get that!

Louis climbs the stairs to his office, leaving Eden and Joe alone. Brief silence between the two. Eden walks over to one of the desks in the press room and leans on it casually.

EDEN

So... you wanna tell me what the  
two of you were arguing about  
before that was so secretive I  
wasn't allowed to hear it?

Joe puts his hands in his pockets, somewhat uncomfortable.

JOE

Nah, it was just... something  
irrelevant.

EDEN

Something irrelevant.

There is another brief silence.

EDEN [CONT'D]

Nothing about me?

Joe shifts uncomfortably. He won't look Eden in the eye.

JOE

Nope. Nah.

Eden folds her arms across her chest. Awkward silence, soon broken by Louis racing back down the stairs, filled with vigour.

LOUIS [DRAMATICALLY]

Two households! Both alike in  
dignity...

Joe sighs, exasperated.

JOE

Here we go...

LOUIS [DRAMATICALLY]

In fair Verona, where we lay our  
scene. From ancient grudge break  
to new mutiny, where civil blood  
makes civil hands unclean.

Louis bows dramatically. Eden is somewhat amused.

(CONTINUED)

EDEN  
Romeo and Juliet?

Louis looks up, grinning broadly.

LOUIS  
Indeed! Secondary school teachers truly appreciate Shakespeare's ability to capture what it is to be a youth in love...

JOE [MUTTERING]  
What? Suicidal? (a beat)

Louis pays no notice.

LOUIS  
We should have a copy on the computers already. Joe, would you like to show Eden how to send the transcript to print?

JOE  
You mean pressing the little button? (a beat)

Louis again pays no notice. He opens the door to the workers office and gestures the two in.

8

8 INT. WILLIAMS AND SON'S EMPLOYEE OFFICE - DAY

8

A short time later. Eden watches over Joe's shoulder as he prints the text. He kicks back in his chair and puts his feet up.

JOE  
Just like that.

EDEN  
So now what?

JOE  
Well, most days we can just sit around here. Lunch is usually at about 12:30, and then we clock off at five.

Joe lets out a long yawn.

EDEN  
That's all we have to do?

Joe reaches into his pocket and pulls out his phone.

(CONTINUED)



JOE  
I mean, sometimes there's other  
work to be done...

Joe starts playing a game on his phone.

JOE [CONT'D]  
But for the most part, that's it.

Eden is amused. She sits down behind the empty desk. The  
press quietly begins to churn in the adjacent room.

EDEN  
For such a laid-back role, Louis  
seemed really eager to bring me  
on. Almost like I was needed  
immediately.

Joe keeps his eyes on his phone game.

JOE  
Yeah, the last person who had  
your role left here kind of...

The game beeps as Joe loses the level.

JOE [CONT'D]  
Suddenly.

Short silence.

EDEN  
Do you mind if I ask what  
happened?

JOE  
They... decided they wanted to  
take a bit of an extended  
holiday.

Eden scoffs.

EDEN  
A holiday! What on earth about  
working here would make someone  
need a holiday?

Joe has returned to his phone game. Silence. Suddenly,  
Louis bursts into the room, holding a freshly-pressed copy  
of Romeo and Juliet.

LOUIS [PANICKED]  
Joe! Joe! It's happening again!

Joe springs up out of his chair and runs out into the  
press room. Eden and Louis follow.

9

9 INT. WILLIAMS AND SON'S PRESS ROOM - DAY

9

Joe inspects the texts that are exiting the machine, flipping rapidly through the pages.

JOE  
Where does it stop?

LOUIS  
Ah, ah - Act 1, Scene 4!

Joe begins turning pages to that section of the play.

EDEN [TO LOUIS]  
What's happening?

LOUIS  
Ah, it's just a slight  
malfunction - the press has  
simply stopped pressing ink to  
paper and...

Joe has found the page.

JOE [SHOUTING]  
Quick! Act 1, Scene 4 of Romeo  
and Juliet! What should be  
happening at that point?

Louis' mouth is agape, he cannot remember.

EDEN  
Isn't that when Romeo, Mercutio  
and Benvolio go to the Capulet's  
ball?

Joe runs over to an OLD TRUNK under the staircase. He digs through them and throws a 1300s DRESS and MASQUE to Eden.

JOE  
Put that on.

Eden picks up the dress, bewildered.

EDEN  
Why?

Joe begins pulling on his own 1300s-ERA GARB.

JOE  
You really love asking questions,  
don't you? Just put it on, I'll  
explain everything later.

Eden refuses. She wants answers.

(CONTINUED)

EDEN

Someone seriously needs to tell me what's going on. You're both being so secretive about everything. What are you two hiding?

Joe walks over to Eden.

JOE

Eden, I know that you don't know me well, so let me put it this way. I'm not a theatre type, but what's happening is serious enough for me to put on *these*...

Joe has put on a pair of UGLY TIGHTS. He awkwardly readjusts a wedgie.

JOE [CONT'D]

So please, put on your dress and you'll start getting all the answers you want...

10

10 INT. WILLIAMS AND SON'S PRESS ROOM - DAY

10

Not long after, Eden stands with Joe next to the press. She's still not impressed.

EDEN

We look ridiculous.

Both are in UGLY GARB.

JOE

Yeah, well - we won't in a minute.

LOUIS

If you ask me, I think you look fantastic!

Joe glares at Louis. Louis' smile fades. A beat.

JOE

You wanted to know what was behind the door.

Eden nods.

JOE [CONT'D]

Just know that if I tell you, you won't believe me.

(CONTINUED)

EDEN [FRUSTRATED]  
You said you'd --

Joe opens the door to the press machine. Eden falls quiet.

JOE  
Let me show you.

Joe pushes Eden from behind through the press door and into the press machine.

11 11 EXT. VERONA SIDE STREET - DAY

11

EDEN and JOE step out through a DOOR IN THE WALL into a side street of Verona. A nearby market VENDOR leads a donkey-drawn CART filled with HAY.

EDEN  
What is this place...?

JOE  
How did Shakespeare put it? "Fair Verona, where we lay our scene."

EDEN is skeptical.

EDEN  
No, no, no. I mean this joke of a press company? Surely there's a hidden camera around here somewhere?

Eden reaches into the cart and sifts around in it the hay. The vendor turns to her. He reaches to his hip, prepared to draw a sword.

VENDOR  
Ho! Do you quarrel!

EDEN  
Did you just call me a "ho"? (a beat)

Joe pulls Eden back.

JOE  
Nay, sir! The lady knoweth not!

The Vendor lets go of his sword handle and begins moving his cart, disgruntled. Joe turns to Eden.

JOE  
This is Verona -- we're inside Romeo and Juliet.

Eden shakes her head in disbelief.

(CONTINUED)

JOE [CONT'D]  
I told you that you wouldn't believe me.

EDEN  
I don't. This is a well-oiled prank, Joe - "travelling into books".

Eden looks around the alley.

EDEN [CONT'D]  
Turning your office courtyard into a city street is a nice touch, too.

Eden, in a huff, walks back to the door through which they entered.

JOE  
Eden, I promise you, I'm not lying.

She turns to him.

EDEN  
Yeah, and I'm related to the Queen.

JOE [BEWILDERED]  
You are?

Eden pauses. She can't believe he thinks she's serious. A beat.

EDEN  
No!

She storms back through the door.

12                    12 INT. WILLIAMS AND SON'S PRESS ROOM - DAY                    12

An angry EDEN returns from the press machine. LOUIS, still in the press room, is excited to see her return

LOUIS  
Oh! Back already? That was quick!

Eden glares at Louis, causing him to cower back. She walks around behind the machine.

EDEN  
How do you do it? Your little TARDIS-printing-press gag?

She taps on the steel behind the door. JOE emerges from within the machine, impatient.

(CONTINUED)

JOE

Eden, come on. We're burning time here.

EDEN

I agree - why don't you fix up this machine so it goes back to printing the way it should? If this even is a press house.

Joe looks at Louis.

JOE

Do you want to explain it?

LOUIS

Oh, you go on Joe. You're better than I am at explaining this.

Joe sighs and slumps his shoulders. He didn't want to deal with this.

JOE

Okay. Eden, there's only one way we can fix that machine, because something about that press machine. Sometimes things go a bit strange.

LOUIS [BOISTEROUS]

MAGIC!

Joe holds up one finger, as though to agree with Louis' point.

JOE

That's one way of putting it. The characters within a story sort of come to life and start making their own decisions.

LOUIS [BOISTEROUS]

FREE WILL!

Joe sighs, exasperated, but nods in agreement.

JOE

Yes, Louis. The characters seem to have free will. Which in turn, means sometimes what is meant to happen in the story doesn't.

LOUIS [IN HORROR]

MADNESS! (a beat)

Joe turns to Louis.

(CONTINUED)

JOE

I mean, do you want to explain this?

Louis drops his head, ashamed. Joe turns back to Eden.

JOE [CONT'D]

So when that happens, words stop appearing -- like their fates are no longer written. And you and I have to go into the book and make sure things happen the way they should.

EDEN

And if we don't?

Louis lets out a loud cry of pain. Joe has no sympathy.

JOE

Then the press probably prints whatever lives the characters live out, and we probably get a copyright lawsuit for poor rip-offs.

LOUIS [SOBBING]

Th-this place would g-go bankrupt!

JOE

Of course, we don't know for sure...

LOUIS [SOBBING]

B-but why f-f-find out?

Eden is still skeptical.

EDEN

So, let me get this straight. Someone in Romeo and Juliet has developed free will...

JOE

My bet is Romeo wants a night in 'browsing' the latest Maidens of the Playlord Mansion scroll (a beat)

EDEN

But whatever it is, the Capulet ball isn't going to play out the way it should as a result?

(CONTINUED)

JOE  
Yep, but we've got to make sure  
it does.

LOUIS  
That's right!

Louis, breaking the fourth wall, turns to the camera.

LOUIS  
Because you're the Lore  
Enforcers!

Both Eden and Joe are both confused.

JOE [TO LOUIS]  
Who are you talking to?

Louis catches himself, and readjusts his suit.

LOUIS  
Oh - er - no time for questions!  
Remember, I'm turning the press  
off at five. We're trying to save  
money here!

Eden walks back around to the front of the press machine.  
She's no longer doubtful, she's now excited.

JOE  
Okay, are you ready?

EDEN  
When you are.

Joe opens the door to the press, and the two re-enter  
Verona.

13      13 EXT. VERONA SIDE STREET - DAY

13

JOE and EDEN step back out into the side street. Eden is  
somewhat awestruck as Joe closes the door behind him.

EDEN  
Wow, so this *is* actually Verona!

JOE [SARCASTICALLY]  
Nope - hidden camera is right  
over there. (a beat)

He points over to the left; Eden chuckles quietly to  
herself.

JOE [CONT'D]  
Look, Eden...

He pats her on the shoulder, and she turns to him.

(CONTINUED)



JOE

I know it's exciting to be inside a text you've read for years, but there are some really important things to remember. Number one - the golden door.

Joe turns to the DOOR through which they entered.

JOE [CONT'D]

That's the only way in and out of here, so we need to remember exactly where it was, because it'll only go back to the press room until Louis turns the machine off.

EDEN

Wait, so if Louis turns the machine off, we get trapped in here?

Joe nods. Eden looks horrified.

EDEN [CONT'D]

So - trapped for good?

JOE

Think of it more as an extended holiday.

Eden gasps.

EDEN

That's what happened to the previous employee?

JOE

Mark? Yeah. But don't worry. He's living it up in the south Pacific.

EDEN

In which book?

JOE

I believe... in *Treasure Island* (A beat).

14

14 EXT. PIRATE SHIP - NIGHT

14

Flash of LIGHTNING as torrential rain falls down on a pirate ship in the middle of rough seas. MARK, 40s and unkempt is on his hands and knees, scrubbing the deck. A fierce PIRATE stands over him.

(CONTINUED)

PIRATE  
Scrub harder, yer scoundrel, or  
I'll keelhaul ya!

The pirate lets out a deep laugh as Mark screams in fear  
(a beat).

15                   15 EXT. VERONA SIDE STREET - DAY

15

JOE realises he is not being very reassuring. He looks at  
his watch.

JOE  
Look, we have nothing to worry  
about. The time now is about  
9:30, we have 7 hours. And even  
though you won't feel it, time  
will move much slower while we're  
in here. It's a fast moving play.

EDEN  
So we should have plenty of time?

Joe looks away from his watch and begins looking around  
the street.

JOE  
Well, I'd put it at about midday  
now, and we need Romeo and Juliet  
to be at that ball tonight, so we  
don't have a lot of time to get  
the events right.

He turns back to the door.

JOE [CONT'D]  
But I'd like to think we could  
fix this up and be back before  
lunch.

He flashes a slight smile at Eden. She's not as confident.

JOE [CONT'D]  
The other thing we need to  
remember is that English has  
changed a lot since Shakespearean  
times. We must speaketh like  
those folk to beest understood.

Eden is feeling overwhelmed.

EDEN [TO HERSELF]  
What has't I gotten myself  
into...? (a beat)

(CONTINUED)

JOE  
You'll do fine, just follow my  
lead.

Joe pats her on the shoulder.

JOE [CONT'D]  
Besides, you know this play  
better than I do! Now...

Joe looks down the street to his right. He can see a  
MARKETPLACE.

JOE [CONT'D]  
Do you think someone down there  
knows where we might find Romeo  
Montague..?

END SCENE