

“Unplugged” – Audition Scene 2

Chris and Kristin are North Creek students. They are barely surviving having to turn off all their electronic devices. Steve is a reporter covering the story. They are all talking when Chris suddenly has a revelation.

Chris: Oh, my gosh! What about Winston?

Steve: Who?

Chris: Winston! I forgot all about him! He'll die without technology! He depends on me!

Steve: This may be something. *(Motions to his cameraman to start filming)* Steve Ackerman reporting from North Creek, where Project Unplugged enters its 10th day. Residents have set aside their SOLO devices, but at what cost?

Chris: Winston's life is dependent on technology, and SOLOtech made me remove it. He'll die!

Steve: *(still on camera)* A new complication the citizens didn't discuss. Has SOLOtech placed lives in jeopardy?

Chris: You don't understand! He'll die! What am I saying? He could be dead already! Winston! If I could just borrow a SOLOpad for a minute to check on him –

Kristin: No! You'll ruin everything. You can't use any technology.

Chris: It's a matter of life and death!

Kristin: *(harshly)* Oh, so what? Winston this, Winston that. You should care about me as much as you care about Winston.

Chris: Are you saying you don't care about him?

Kristin: Yes! That's exactly what I'm saying! Die, Winston, die!

Steve: *(a pause, but continuing with his coverage on camera)* So, as you can see, tensions are running high here in North Creek, and lives hang in the balance of the Great Experiment. So who is Winston? A friend? Relative?

Chris: *(To the camera)* He's all those things and more. *(sniffing)* He's my . . . my . . . my virtual hamster. No Internet access means I can't feed him or encourage him to run on his cute little wheel *(Sobs as he collapses to his knees.)* What if he dies?

Steve: (*lowering his microphone*) Your virtual hamster? Virtual hamsters are not news. They aren't even hamsters.

Kristin: (*still angry*) Yeah, it's an app. They're all the rage – with little girls. You know, web sites host adoptions for these virtual pets, and it's up to the so-called owners to log in and complete basic maintenance tasks in order to keep the program running.

Steve: What is going on? The Internet was supposed to be for the scholarly exchange of ideas, for improving the speed of communication and helping with new discoveries.

Kristin: Sometimes you've got to wade through a lot of digital hamsters to get to the stuff you want.