

“Unplugged” -- Audition Scene 1

Tom is the head of a company that invented a technology called SOLO. He is a very nice person, and thought his technology was helpful until he received a letter. Madison and Beth are his assistants. Madison turns out to be one of the antagonists of the play, so although we shouldn't be able to tell she's bad yet, a bit of that should come through early on. Beth is a kind, reliable person who just wants to do what is right.

Tom, Madison, and Beth are in Tom's office, discussing a letter he received.

Tom: *(reading a letter)* “Dear Mr. Morris. I'm not sure you'll remember me, but my name is Abigail Rickman, and I won the Great SOLOtech Essay contest ten years ago on why my town should become “The Most Wired Town in America.””

Madison: I remember her. She wrote a totally great essay. Top-notch writer. Warm-syrup-on-your-waffles good.

Tom: *(reading)* “We were very happy to have all the technology you donated to us, and everyone just loved the SOLOpads you gave to each of us. In fact, they use them for everything – school, work, social networking, playing games, well, everything. And I guess that's the problem. People are so plugged in, no one talks anymore, or hangs out with friends. I think my life was better without it. So, I'm sending mine back. And could you come and take the rest of the town's back, too? Sincerely, Abigail Rickman.”

Madison: So here's the thing. The girl is obviously very deeply disturbed.

Beth: A moment ago you said she was brilliant.

Tom: She says she wants me to take it all back; that her life would be better without SOLO.

Beth: *(sincerely)* Her life is better, Tom. You have single-handedly revolutionized the world with this technology.

Tom: *(waves letter)* That's not what Abigail says.

Madison: *(grabbing the letter from Tom)* I think we've already established that Abigail's totally insane.

Tom: *(snatches it back)* Except that she isn't. You agreed ten years ago when she won that contest. “Mature and insightful” you said.

Madison: Hey, she was in high school then. I'm telling you, Tom. People love the SOLO product line. You have created the technology that powers nearly every personal tech device all over the world.

Beth: The public has eaten up everything you've created.

Madison: And they can't wait to stand in line to upgrade the minute you put out something that's been even slightly improved. SOLO has simply become a totally natural extension of their arms and minds. They, like, can't live without it.

Tom: I wish I knew whether what this girl says is accurate. How could life possibly be better without SOLO?

Beth: It isn't. Look, why don't Madison and I go to this North Creek and check things out? Haven't they applied for consideration as a possible site for the headquarters of that new virtual resort you've been pushing, Madison?

Madison: Virtual vacations for the busy traveler. See the world without every leaving your room! Brilliant! But tiny North Creek, Wisconsin, as the vacation capital of the United States? Please. Besides, we're looking at other way cool places to put it. South Beach, Aspen, New York –

Beth: The point of a virtual resort is that you don't have to actually be in those exotic places to go there!

Madison: I'm all for this little fact-finding mission to North Creek if Tom wants to see if Abigail is right, but I think we'll see that this little town-let is totally unsuitable for the resort.

Beth: We'll see. I think they deserve consideration like everybody else. What do you think, Tom? Tom?

Tom: Maybe I'll come with you.

Madison/Beth: What?

Beth: Come on, Tom. You have barely left this compound in over a decade.

Madison: Tom Morris, totally reclusive boy genius, finally wants to go out and play? Like, stop the presses! I'll inform the media –

Tom: No. I don't want this to be a circus. I want to do this anonymously, without any fanfare or media attention. No one must know who I really am. No one. My sole purpose is to see how "The Most Wired Town in America" is faring.

Madison: OK, no media. *(Fakes being excited)* Like, yay! North Creek, Wisconsin, here we come!