

Pandemonium

By Sophie Twardus

Author's note:

This script was written as my way of coping with the pandemic of COVID-19. The pandemic was a time period where things changed rapidly and a lot of us felt powerless in our lives. My goal here is to help heal from this awful experience by giving people the opportunity to have control of the narrative and to safely explore the absurdity of the last few years. Please interpret this script as anything but the pandemic. Living through it once was bad enough.

**Any use of the # symbol can be replaced by a number of the director's choosing.
Any gendered language can be changed.**

The word **Pandemonium** can be replaced with another word. It has to be the same word throughout the script.

Characters

Pan: 41 Lines

Cal: 52 Lines

Resi: 40 Lines

Annu: 21 Lines

1-**Pan**: I just need you to set up that thing.

2-**Cal**: This is coming together nicely.

3-**Pan**: Be careful not to trip.

4-**Cal**: Oh good call. That could have gone poorly.

5-**Resi**: I can't wait for this to start. It's going to be amazing.

6-**Cal**: Your hard work is paying off.

7-**Pan**: Yeah!

8-**Resi**: I will come back later.

9-**Cal**: Looking forward to seeing you.

10-**Pan**: I am still so nervous.

11-**Annu**: We are here to inform you that the status quo has been disrupted. **Pandemonium** has broken out.

12-**Pan**: Oh no!

13-**Cal**: Maybe it won't be so extreme.

14-**Annu**: It's very extreme.

15-**Pan**: Nothing will ever be the same.

16-**Cal**: It will be okay.

17-**Pan**: It doesn't feel like it.

18-**Annu**: The Uncertainty is intensifying.

19-**Pan**: I guess we are going to have to cancel.

20-**Cal**: It would be wise. Here, let me help take it down.

21-**Pan**: Thanks.

22-**Resi**: You're taking things down?

23-**Cal**: Haven't you heard?

24-**Pan**: Given the current situation we thought it would be best to cancel.

25-**Resi**: You're overreacting! I refuse to let this affect me.

26-**Cal**: It's about what's proper.

27-**Resi**: I don't care.

28-**Cal**: It's for the sake of everyone: you, me, them.

29-**Resi**: I don't care for it. You are imposing your choices on me.

30-**Cal**: It's ultimately my decision to make.

31-**Resi**: You shouldn't let yourself be controlled.

32-**Pan**: You are making this harder than it has to be.

33-**Resi**: Fine, if you are going to be that way.

34-**Annu**: Due to these turbulent times The Event has been canceled.

35-**Resi**: This is a mistake.

36-**Annu**: It is now recommended that everyone follow these new rules. We will now see a practical demonstration of said rules.

Rule 1) Refrain from touching the red areas. [Demonstrate the rule]

Rule 2) Always have this on hand. [Demonstrate the rule]

Rule 3) Follow the danger signs. [Demonstrate the rule]

Rule 4) New boundaries have been established. [Demonstrate the rule]

The rules are here to keep things normal. Failure to follow can result in consequences.

37-**Cal**: Let's all take a deep breath.

38-**Pan**: I can't breathe.

39-**Resi**: I can't breathe.

40-**Annu**: There are reports that people are having difficulty breathing.

41-**Cal**: Why don't we take a break from this.

42-**Pan**: I can't look away.

43-**Annu**: But wait, there's more!

44-**Cal**: That's enough of that for now.

45-**Pan**: You can't just silence things! I need to stay informed. That way I can keep things under control.

46-**Cal**: Sometimes things are just chaos and you have to accept it.

47-**Annu**: Things are feeling out of control!? Here is where you should direct your feelings!

48-**Resi**: Let's break something!

49-**Cal**: I really don't think that's going to help.

50-**Resi**: Why won't it break!?

51-**Pan**: Please stop.

52-**Resi**: [Insert onomatopoeia]

53-**Cal**: I get that you feel powerless. But this way of exerting power isn't productive.

54-**Resi**: You trying to take my power? I am not going to let you.

55-**Annu**: We are reporting that things are breaking apart.

56-**Pan**: This seems like a weird thing to do given the circumstances.

57-**Cal**: Sometimes when things feel overwhelming. I like to focus on something small that I can do something about. All this can kind of be a lot. But this here? I can do something about it. And it's really nice to see some tangible progress.

58-**Pan**: Can I join you?

59-**Cal**: Absolutely. Here's how you start.

60-**Pan**: I am no good at this. I can't do this.

61-**Cal**: You are learning. You can't expect to be good immediately. Let's just do this one step at a time.

62-**Pan**: Okay.

63-**Cal**: Follow my lead.

64-**Pan**: Darn, I made a mistake.

65-**Cal**: But it's already better than what it was. You are making progress.

66-**Pan**: Doing things feels good.

67-**Annu**: We have ongoing developments.

68-**Cal**: You can just ignore that.

69-**Pan**: But what if I miss something crucial?

70-**Cal**: I assure you that whatever is happening there will continue to happen even if you look away.

71-**Pan**: Sorry I can't stay. I need to know. Bye, this was fun.

72-**Cal**: Bye, feel free to join me some other time.

73-**Annu**: Everything that is happening is all the fault of ..., I am sure I don't need to spell it out for you. We all know what's at fault. Are you willing to let it happen?

74-**Pan & Resi**: No!

75-**Annu**: This just in: The consequence for breaking rule # is now more severe.

76-**Cal**: We definitely should take this seriously.

77-**Pan**: You need to hide that. If they catch you there will be consequences.

78-**Resi**: I am defending our freedom. If we don't oppose injustice then we leave our rights vulnerable.

79-**Pan**: [stuttering] You can't do that!

80-**Resi**: You will be happy to know I am following the rules.

81-**Pan**: That entirely defeats the purpose of the rules.

82-**Cal**: I am worried about you. I feel like you are spiraling.

83-**Annu**: We interrupt to announce that rule # is no longer in effect and we have introduced Rule 5: always wear protection.

84-**Resi**: You can't do anything anymore! I refuse to let this slide.

85-**Cal**: Hey, things are hard right now. It would be helpful if we were all on the same page. Can I count on you?

86-**Resi**: I refuse to go in the wrong direction.

87-**Pan**: How can you be certain what's the right direction? There's so many paths one could take. You could go there or there. Are you sure you are not lost?

88-**Resi**: If you aren't going to listen, I will just leave.

89-**Pan**: Good riddance!

90-**Cal**: They're still a person. They still deserve compassion.

91-**Resi**: Are you following me?

92-**Cal**: I just want to talk.

93-**Resi**: Then talk.

94-**Cal**: I want to check in. See how you are doing.

95-**Resi**: Isn't it obvious?

96-**Cal**: I want you to know I am there for you. Always.

97-**Annu**: Breaking News. Introducing Measure X! It's the solution that will bring things back to normal, but it's only #% effective.

98-**Resi**: So it's pointless and doesn't work.

99-**Pan**: We have a solution. Everything is solved.

100-**Cal**: I feel like there's a middle ground here we are missing.

101-**Annu**: We are going to be relaxing the rules but only for those who follow Measure X.

102-**Cal**: This is such a promising sight.

103-**Pan**: We can return to our activities.

104-**Cal**: Let's set things back up again.

105-**Resi**: I am here for the event.

106-**Cal**: I am sorry but the event is only for people who are Measure X compliant.

107-**Resi**: I will not compromise on this. You are asking too high of a price.

108-**Cal**: We have to do our part to keep the **Pandemonium** under control.

109-**Resi**: At what cost? When will things go back to normal?

110-**Cal**: You just have to accept that this is the new normal. It has its upsides.

111-**Annu**: Announcement: All the rules are gone. Things can go back to normal!

112-**Cal**: But we haven't addressed the underlying concerns. Are we just not going to learn anything from the experience?

113-**Resi**: Yes, the rules are gone. My resistance was successful.

114-**Pan**: I can stop worrying. Shall we resume what we started?

115-**Cal**: I don't like this. The rules are the only things that keep **Pandemonium** at bay.

116-**Annu**: Now a word from our sponsors: We have a new product. Just apply it to your body and you feel the effects in just # minutes. Available at retailers near you!

117-**Pan**: I need to buy this right now.

118-**Resi**: Not before I get it.

119-**Pan**: Oh good; they still have some in stock.

120-**Resi**: I never realized you had such good taste.

121-**Pan**: I have always been a fan. I have the previous stuff too.

122-**Resi**: Wow that one is a limited edition.

123-**Pan**: I like this. This feels like old times.

124-**Resi**: Why don't you join us?

125-**Cal**: Thank you but I am going to keep following the rules.

126-**Resi**: Why? We no longer have to.

127-**Cal**: I know but my reasons for following them are still here.

128-**Resi**: Don't you find that annoying?

129-**Cal**: A little bit. Especially rule #. But it's the right thing to do.

130-**Annu**: This just in. An immediate recall has been issued for the product. Some of them have been found to be defective and using it can cause adverse side-effects.

131-**Cal**: Did either of you use the product?

132-**Resi**: I would prefer not to say.

133-**Pan**: The rules are gone. You no longer have to enforce them.

134-**Cal**: I am just worried. I care about your well-being.

135-**Resi**: There is nothing to worry about.

136-**Cal**: What's that there? That's a clear sign of the **Pandemonium**.

137-**Pan**: Aah I thought things were back to normal.

138-**Resi**: Normal is overrated.

139-**Cal**: We must be vigilant. Following the rules makes a difference.

140-**Pan**: I don't know what to do. I have trouble describing how this affects me. This can't be easily brushed away.

141-**Annu**: The **Pandemonium** is back. Now spicier than ever. Rules # and # are now back in effect.

142-**Cal**: It never left.

143-**Pan**: I have never been good with spicy.

144-**Cal**: Here take this. It will help you be rule compliant.

145-**Resi**: You're such a goody two shoes. Aren't you annoyed by this?

146-**Cal**: I am frustrated. We are constantly being sold individualized solutions to collective problems. And it's tiring. Still we have to keep trying.

147-**Annu**: # people have been fundamentally altered since **Pandemonium** has started. Do you have anything to comment?

148-**Pan**: I haven't been the same since.

149-**Resi**: I'm ready to move on.

150-**Cal**: None of this would have happened if you had just followed the rules.

151-**Annu**: Announcement: All the rules are gone. Things can go back to normal!

152-**Pan**: This is such a relief.

153-**Resi**: We've won.

154-**Cal**: I guess it's up to me to protect the status quo. I feel like I am constantly seeing the same story play out over and over again. This ends now.