

Dani's Inferno

Ep 1 – Beware the Good Samaritan

Written by Retta Bodhaine

Cast of Characters

- Major Characters:
 - Dani
 - Sabirah (British)
 - Babs
 - Joe (slightly Hispanic)
 - Perry
 - Iggy
- Featured Characters:
 - Mr. Maro (Deep Appalachian)
- Also-heards
 - Joe's Dad (Hispanic)
 - Dante

DANTE: It's been 717 years since I've wandered through the afterlife. After that fated journey, I was sent back to Earth with a new mission. Now my time has come, and I am filled with hope as my charges approach. Maybe one of them will be the one we all need. The Atlanta Radio Theatre Company presents Dani's Inferno, Episode 1.

(SFX: Car trunk shuts. 4 doors close. Keys enter ignition. Car dings. Engine starts.)

(MUSIC: background car music)

JOE: Lake Chatuge here we come!

(SFX: Everyone [Dani, Sabirah, Babs, Perry, Joe and Iggy] in the car cheers in excitement. Car music rises to indicate time passing)

IGGY So Babs, where do your parents think you are this weekend?

BABS At Sabirah's family lake house. They just don't know you guys are going to be there.

DANI Why? Where do your parents think you are?

PERRY They didn't really ask us Dani.

SABIRAH Perry, you're not serious?

PERRY What Sabirah? They know I'm with Joe and Iggy, and it's not like they can't reach me on my cell phone.

SABIRAH You leave right after prom, you'll be gone all weekend, and your parent's 'didn't really ask' as to where you are?

PERRY Yep.

DANI Joe? Iggy? What about you guys?

JOE & IGGY Same

BABS *(Sarcastically)* Gotta love those double standards.

PERRY Well, with boys you only have to worry about one --

(SFX: Tire blows. Car swerves. Car crashes. Air bags blow.)

ALL *(Moaning)*

DANI Is everyone ok?

ALL BUT JOE *(Pained sounds of affirmation)*

DANI Joe?

SOUND BODY BEING LIGHTLY SHAKEN

DANI *(Panicky)* Joe?

SABIRAH Dani! Don't shake him!

DANI Guys he's bleeding. Like a lot!

PERRY But is he breathing?

BABS It's a nosebleed. I don't think that's serious.

DANI *(Sarcastically)* How about unconscious, Babs? Is that serious?

PERRY IS. HE. BREATHING?

IGGY Yeah, Perry. Look it's squirting the blood on the windshield.

DANI Oh God! There's just so much blood.

IGGY Well tilt him forward so he doesn't drown!

BABS NO! Tilt him backward to staunch the blood!

SABIRAH Don't move him at all!

JOE *(Groans)*

DANI *(Extremely relieved)* Oh, thank God! He's waking up! Joe? Joe? Can you hear me?

JOE *(Groggy and nasal)* What happened? *(his voice stays nasal from here on out / broken nose)*

IGGY Felt like a blown tire.
JOE Seriously? I just bought tires 3 months ago!
BABS Um, does anyone have service? I'm at no bars
 whatsoever.

(SFX: Cell phones being checked. Sounds of frustration)

IGGY No one has any signal?
BABS *(Sarcastically)* No Iggy, we're just
 pretending.
IGGY God you can be such a --

(SFX: Car door opens.)

DANI Joe where are you going?
SABIRAH You really shouldn't move.

(SFX: Driver leaves car.)

SABIRAH *(yelling after him)* You may have a concussion.

*(SFX: Car door shuts. Seatbelt undoes. Car Door Opens. Passenger gets out. Car door closes.
High heels walk around car) Lines 58-63 are heard through glass.*

JOE My parents are going to kill me!
DANI Joe, they'll understand --
JOE Look at my car, Dani! It's completely totaled!
 What exactly makes you think my dad will
 'understand'?
DANI You don't need to yell at me Jobani!
JOE Don't call me that!

(SFX: Muffled argument continues in background)

PERRY	Soooo, we should probably find a way to get some help.	DANI	Well don't yell at me!
SABIRAH	I think our lack of signal is probably because we're in a	JOE	My Car's been totaled, my nose is broken, my parents are going to kill

valley. If we can get to the top of the mountain we should be able to get a call out.

me. Maybe you could give me ONE minute before starting in on me.

BABS You want to climb a mountain in the woods at night?

IGGY (*Sarcastically*) No I want to stay in the immobile car on the side of a blind curve 'at night'.

BABS You know what?

SABIRAH No and we don't need to. We need to get up the mountain. Now let's move.

DANI I'm just trying to help, to give you some perspective and hope. God forbid, I should open my mouth!

JOE It'd probably be a sign of the apocalypse if you could keep it shut for a full minute.

DANI Fine. I'll just leave you to panic your way into another angsty broody mood!

(SFX: Car doors open. Everyone exits. Car doors shut.)

JOE I am not angsty!

DANI And I have had enough!

JOE & DANI FINE!

DANI Why are you guys out here?

PERRY We need to climb the mountain to get a cell signal.

JOE Fine. Whatever. Let's just go.

(SFX: 3 pairs of men's dress shoes, two pair of heels and one pair flats walk off road and into brush. Hiking Noises.)

IGGY (*Sniffs*) Does anyone smell that?

SABIRAH Yeah. What is that? It's ... musky.

PERRY It's cat pee.

BABS Shut up, Perry.

PERRY No, really. That's what it is.

BABS Cats just randomly wander into the national forest to pee?

PERRY Probably yeah, but I was talking about the mountain lions -

BABS SHUT YOUR MOUTH RIGHT NOW! Like it's not creepy enough here, now you're trying to freak us all out about lions.

PERRY and bears

IGGY and tigers

PERRY No Iggy! There are no tigers, just mountain lions, brown bears and maybe some -

(SFX: Coyote Howls)

BABS OH HELL NO!

(SFX: Everyone runs back down the mountain)

PERRY *(Panting)* Coyotes

IGGY *(Panting)* Lions, Coyotes, and Bears? It just doesn't work.

ALL BUT IGGY Shut up!

(SFX: Catching their breath)

IGGY Hey Guys. I know I'm supposed to be "shut up", but where's the car?

DANI It's probably just around the bend. We must have come out at a different place.

IGGY Ok. Left bend or right bend?

DANI Why don't the boys go right and the girls go left and -

ALL BUT DANI No!

IGGY Lions, Coyotes, and Bears remember?

BABS Yeah, and this is all starting to feel like a bad horror movie. The one smart thing we've done is stay together. If we split up, somebody's gonna die.

SABIRAH Don't even joke about that!

BABS *(Quiet Mutter)* Who's joking?

PERRY Soooo right then?

JOE Yeah, I think we were on a downhill.

SABIRAH *(Quiet aside)* Isn't it all a downhill?

DANI OK! Right it is!

(SFX: Tromping feet on asphalt downhill. Time passes.)

PERRY I'm pretty sure we've gone way too far.

DANI Yeah, maybe we should try the other way instead.

JOE Yeah ok, let's just give it -

SOUND OLD TRUCK APPROACHING, COMING TO A STOP, AND IDLING

MARO You kids need some help?

DANI Yes! Thank you! Our Tahoe crashed and then we got lost --

JOE Dani, sweetheart, I'm sure our car just a little bit farther. We don't need to trouble the nice man. *(to Maro)* Thank you for stopping sir, but we'll be ok as soon as we get back to the car.

MARO Well, if you're looking for a Tahoe, I can tell you it ain't back in that direction.

BABS Joe, I really can't walk much more.

DANI Me either.

IGGY Why do you even wear those things?

DANI What else can you wear with prom dresses?

SABIRAH I can't believe I'll have to thank my parents
for not allowing me to wear heels.

DANI It looks fine with your fancy firaq.

IGGY A fur-what?

DANI A firaq. It's a fancy Afghan dress.

SABIRAH Actually --

PERRY Maybe Mr...

MARO Maro.

PERRY Maybe Mr. Maro here, wouldn't mind giving us a
ride down the hill until we find our car.

MARO Fine by me. Hop on in the bed.

(SFX: They climb into the bed. Truck starts driving.)

SABIRAH Keep checking your phones. We may get signal.

(SFX: Phones being checked. Truck comes to a stop. Back window opens.)

MARO Well, this is the bottom of the mountain. What
y'all wanna do?

JOE We must have gotten really turned around.

SABIRAH And we still can't get signal.

MARO You ain't gonna get any signal for about 15
miles in any direction, but I got a landline
at my place y'all can use.

DANI What do you think, Joe?

JOE I think we don't have too many options,
(quiet) and there are 6 of us, if things come
to it.

PERRY Thank you Mr. Maro. We would really appreciate
that.

MARO *(Grunts)*

(SFX: Window closes. Truck drives)

SABIRAH I didn't think anyone could live in a national forest.

PERRY I think that was true, but didn't all those old government land deeds just expire? Maybe it's different now.

SABIRAH *(unconvinced)* Perhaps.

(SFX: Truck pulls onto gravel road)

BABS Where exactly does this guy live?

(SFX: Truck hits bump. All groan)

MARO *(yelled out front window)* Y'all might want to hold on, It can get a bit bumpy here!

(SFX: Truck hits multiple bumps. Groans and sliding. Truck comes to a stop, parks, and turns off. Door opens. Maro gets out. Door closes.)

MARO Well, here we are.

(SFX: They sorely climb out of the truck bed)

MARO Come on in.

(SFX: Walk across gravel, up wood stairs, and onto a wood porch. Door Opens. People enter. Door closes.)

MARO Here's the den. If y'all wouldn't mind confinin' yourselves to this room, the rest of the house is a bit of a mess.

IGGY *(after awkward silence)* Yeah, ok.

MARO Anyways, the phone's right on that wall. I'm gonna go get dinner started. Y'all hungry?

IGGY Um, sure Mr. Maro, thanks.

(SFX: Heavy boots exit room)

BABS How many heads is too many to have on a wall?

DANI This many, by a lot.

PERRY And they're all predators. Not a deer or duck among them.

JOE Look at all those fangs.

IGGY And claws! Check this out guys!

SABIRAH Put those down before you stab yourself!

IGGY But, I have alligator claws for hands.

JOE Iggy! Can you be serious for one single night in your life?

IGGY Whatever man, why don't you just go call your parents?

(SFX: Men's dress shoes cross floor. Corded phone is lifted off receiver)

JOE Rotary dial? What era is this guy from?

(SFX: Rotary dials. Phone rings)

JOE'S DAD Hi you've reached my voicemail. Leave a message and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.

(SFX: Beep)

JOE Hey Dad. *(Sigh)* I've been in a wreck. I'm up in the Mountains. None of our cell phones are getting any service. Give me a call when you get this, you can pull the number off caller ID. We're at a guy's house named Mr. Maro. I'll try calling back in a bit in case the number is unknown. *(Mutters)* Wouldn't surprise me.

(SFX: Phone placed in cradle. Men's dress shoes cross floor)

SABIRAH Don't you want to call emergency services?

JOE No. If I get one stroke of luck, I can still get out of this without getting a ticket.

PERRY Why would you get a ticket?

JOE Failure to maintain my lane, happened to that girl Rachel last December, remember?

SABIRAH But we should get you to a doctor, Your nose is clearly broken and you may have a concussion.

(SFX: Heavy Boots reenter room)

MARO Took a couple hits to the head huh? I can set that for you.

JOE Thanks man, but I'm -

MARO Now don't be stubborn. You look like you'd like to keep your face pretty. Come here.

JOE You sure you know what you're -

(SFX: Nose bone crunch)

JOE Ahhhhh--- mother lovin' son of a biscuit eater! *(groaning)* No hesitation at all? Maybe a warning or a countdown or something?

MARO Girlie, hand me that there flashlight. No, that's a cattle prod. There you go.

DANI Here.

MARO Thanks. Now look into the light for me. This way. Uh-huh. Yeah, you got bashed all right, but you should be fine as long as you stay up for the next couple hours.

SABIRAH Are you medically qualified to say that?

MARO I used to be a guide. Had to know how to keep my charge safe and healthy. Now, why don't you ladies help me carry out the stew bowls.

(SFX: Boots flats and heels start walking)

BABS Mr. Maro? Is there a bathroom we could wash up in?

MARO There's a sink in the kitchen, but if you're needin' to do anything else, the outhouse is out back.

BABS Outside?

MARO That's why they call it an outhouse, Honey. Nothin' will bother you on my property and the path is lit.

BABS *(Unconvinced)* Uh-huh.

(SFX: Boots, flats, and heels continue out of the room)

BABS Anyone else need to use the facilities?

IGGY Yeah, guys don't go in groups.

BABS No, but a gentleman would escort a lady

IGGY *(snorts)* Oh, now she likes the double standards. What happened to being a big strong independent woman? Or are you really afraid we're in a scary movie?

BABS Fine then!

(SFX: Heels stomp off)

JOE Lay off Iggs. Here Babs I'll go with -

BABS Don't bother!

(SFX: Door opens and shuts hard. Heels stomp off. Boots, flats and heels reenter room. Dinner bowls being served)

MARO Here's Dinner.

PERRY *(Politely saying the right thing)* Thank you Mr. Maro. This smells delicious.

JOE *(Sincerely)* Yeah, it really does!

PERRY A little surprising though, with you being a hunter I thought it'd be a meat stew.

MARO It usually is, but with it being Good Friday and all, I gotta stay vegetarian on account of the Lord.

DANI Oh, you're a Christian?

MARO Kind of hard not to be after everything I've seen. So if y'all wouldn't mind, please join hands and follow me in prayer.

(SFX: People moving into a circle and grabbing hands)

MARO You not the prayin' type darling?

SABIRAH I'm Muslim, sir.

MARO As long as you believe it's fine, I'll keep it very general.

(SFX: Sabirah joins circle)

JOE Shouldn't we wait for Babs?

DANI If belief is required, there's no point in waiting for her.

JOE Seriously?

DANI *(Defending her friend)* She just prefers science to faith.

IGGY Then maybe I shouldn't --

PERRY Just stay put Iggs, There's a big difference between Atheist and Agnostic. I'm sure it's fine.

MARO Well now that that's all settled, please bow your heads. Pater noster, **(1 & 2)** concede ut isti filii obvisus universitas vestra abscondita est! **(3)** Inducam in profundis inferni convivæ. **(4, 5, and 6)** Videant supernis sedibus. Et nunc mitte! *(turns menacingly calm)* In nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti, **(7)** Amen.

IGGY **(1)** *(Whispered)* Wow old school style

SABIRAH **(2)** *(Grumbled)* This doesn't feel 'general' to me.

PERRY **(3)** Um guys, this doesn't sound like a prayer anymore.

PERRY **(4)** He just said "Bring them to the depths of Hell!"

JOE **(5)** Guys LET GO NOW!

ALL BUT MARO (6) (*Various forms of we can't, we're stuck, grunts as they try to pull free. Then panicking, yelling and screaming*)

(7) (**SFX:** *Everyone screaming fades out*)