

Badlands Unlimited



Badlands Unlimited (Act I)

PLAYBILL

BADLANDS UNLIMITED OFFICE
NEW YORK



#5 Badlands Unlimited
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Edited by Adam Gibbons and Eva Wilson

CHARACTERS

- PAUL..... Publisher of Badlands Unlimited, an independent press specialising in books about art by artists and writers.
- IAN..... Co-director of Badlands. An up-and-coming artist who has worked with Paul since Badlands began in 2010.
- MICAELA..... Associate director of Badlands. A young artist and filmmaker.
- MATTHEW..... Chief Financial Officer of Badlands.
- ANGELA..... Intern. Young art history student living in the city.
- KAREN..... Book consultant who works with Badlands.
- LEX..... A performance artist and author of *My Wet Hot Drone Summer*, a sci-fi erotic novella published by Badlands.

SETTING

The Badlands Unlimited office. There are three work desks with computers and other typical office equipment in the front office, along with a black leather couch, and a long, chest-height bookcase filled with books published by Badlands. Lush green plants line the top of the bookcase. A front office entryway leads to a storage room, which is lined with shelves full of books. Another entryway from the storage room leads to the office kitchen. There is a round white kitchen table with chairs.

TIME

Now.

ACT I:

(Office, late afternoon. A placard or screen shows the following: LAUNCH OF THE NEWEST BOOK IN BADLANDS UNLIMITED'S EROTIC NOVELLA SERIES *NEW LOVERS*. Ian and Micaela hunch over Ian's computer screen. Matthew sits at his desk playing with his phone. Loud music is playing. Angela enters.)

IAN

There?

ANGELA

NOT there.

MICAELA

(Mica turns off the music)

What.

IAN

Where?

(Ian turns to Matthew, still looking at his phone)

MATTHEW

Don't know where.

(Matthew puts down his phone and works on his computer)

ANGELA

Does Paul know?

MICAELA

I'll text him again.

(Micaela handles her phone)

IAN

Where is he?

ANGELA

Post office?

MATTHEW

No, he hates the lighting in the lobby.

ANGELA

I meant the books.

IAN

Matt, could they be at the post office?

MATTHEW

Still looking for the email from the shipper.

(Matthew works on his computer, looking through tabs in his browser and scrolling through long email chains)

IAN

(Ian turns to Angela)

Go.

ANGELA

K.

(Angela leaves the office)

MATTHEW

(Matthew continues to scroll through a long email chain. Ian and Micaela turn to look at him, waiting)

What if...

(Matthew continues to scroll while turning toward Micaela and Ian)
The books don't show up? Should we still have the party?

IAN

It can just be a party for Lex.

MICAELA

People already RSVPed.

MATTHEW

But if there's no book to launch, what do we actually sell tonight?

MICAELA

Show the e-book version on computer screens.

IAN

They're not done yet.

MICAELA

No. Really?

IAN

Something came up and I didn't have time.

MATTHEW

We're throwing a book launch party without any actual books.

MICAELA

Kind of perfect, actually.

MATTHEW
How?

MICAELA
No one reads at a party.
(Micaela turns up the music and goes
back to her computer. Ten seconds later:)

IAN
Have we picked up the alcohol?

MICAELA
(Micaela is typing on her computer)
Not yet.

IAN
Could be cool if it were sci-fi themed.
Something futuristic.

MICAELA
(Micaela turns to Ian while still
typing)
Like the dildo.

IAN
I love how it's metallic and can change
shape like that thing in *Terminator 2*.

MICAELA
I like the secret plot to use it as
a weapon of mass destruction.

MATTHEW
It's like a Michael Bay movie, but with
words.

IAN
(Ian stops typing and turns to Micaela)
What if all the drinks were silvery.

MICAELA
It's something.

MATTHEW
(Matthew fusses on his computer)
We can't spend too much. We've already
gone over budget with the printing.

IAN
What does Lex want?

MICAELA
She hasn't returned any of my emails.
I think she's nervous.

IAN
Let's just get beer and some wine.

MICAELA
It should be a little special though.
It's her first book. Plus, people are
going to take pics so we should give them
something to post on social media.

MATTHEW
Why don't we get stuff to mix drinks, but
stir everything with a silver vibrator?
(Ian and Micaela look at Matthew
blankly)
A vibrator is what, twenty bucks? With
batteries it's like twenty-four ninety-
five.

MICAELA
Cheap.

IAN
Doable.

MATTHEW
(Matthew waves his right hand
overhead and across in an arc shape as if
he's proclaiming something)
The future.

IAN
I'll make the list for Angela.
(Ian turns to Micaela)
Can you call her and see where she's at?

MICAELA
(Micaela pushes buttons on her phone)
On it.

IAN
Where the hell is Paul?
(Ian's phone rings)
Hello?
Hey.
(Ian steps away from his desk and
away from the others)
Cool.
Great!
Mostly there. Some backend stuff.
More programming.
Corgi.
Apple and Android.
No it should drink its own saliva.
It'll work. Just need more time. And sort

out my schedule.
It'll be done.
K. Thanks.
(Ian hangs up the phone and looks
at Micaela and Matthew)
Where is he?
(Ian walks back to his desk and
as he is about to sit down Paul enters
the office)

PAUL
Hey!

IAN, MICAELA, MATTHEW
Hey.
(Paul sits down on the couch and
places his gigantic backpack next to him.
He begins to take stuff out and places
it on the couch and on the floor around
the couch, like books and art supplies.
The more stuff he takes out, the more
ridiculous the objects are, like a
magician pulling things out of a hat.
This goes on for longer than it has to.
Ian, Micaela, and Matthew wait for Paul
as if they have seen this routine before)

PAUL
So.

IAN
We don't know where the books are.

MATTHEW
Fedex has no record of them being
shipped. And I can't get a hold of the

printer. Angela's at the post office now.
We thought maybe they're there.

MICAELA

We still need alcohol. Press is requesting advance copies of the book but we can't send them. And the RSVPs are going off. Ragdar, that annoying artist, is coming and no one invited him. I think his girlfriend writes for *New York Magazine* or something so it was prob her.

IAN

The e-book versions of Lex's book aren't done yet. I'm sorry I've been really busy lately. I can get it done by the end of tomorrow. But I don't think I can finish it for the party tonight.

MICAELA

Oh yeah, this woman Bethany wants to come. She wrote some erotic thriller she wants us to publish. I forwarded it to everyone but no one read it and I haven't finished it so I don't want to deal. What should I say?

IAN

(Ian's computer chimes and he looks at his screen)
And Lex just emailed me. She's coming like now. She wants to see her book.

PAUL

(Paul pauses before speaking)
Matthew, did you get a haircut?

MATTHEW

No. I got a perm.

PAUL

A perm?

MATTHEW

I wanted a change.

PAUL

So?

MATTHEW

I feel changed.

PAUL

Is Ragdar that annoying?

MICAELA

Yeah, he's a creep. Also his work sucks.

PAUL

But he is so prolific. Maybe it's steroids?

MATTHEW

You think he's juicing?

PAUL

Baseball players take it. Why not artists?

IAN

What about Lex?

MICAELA

Why would she be on steroids?