

Vignettes Transcript:

S01E03, Downfall



Air date: 02/06/2026 | Listen here: [Vignettes Podlink](#)

Tag line: They decide their timeframes. Are they good at their job?

Protagonist: *Expeditor*, played by Lea Lawson

Intro – 0:00

LEA VO: Vignettes; an improvised audio drama. Episodes are best experienced with headphones. Please see show notes for content warnings. And here we go!

Theme song – 0:08

[[Vignettes theme](#) plays]

Downfall – 1:08

[ringtone plays, the sound of a computer chair's wheels pans from left to centre, scuffling of headphones, affirmative notification sound, [song #1](#) plays]

EXPEDITOR: Hey! [listening pause] Yeah, sorry I'm a few minutes late: situationship kept me occupied a little longer than I anticipated. Anyway, I'm here! How's it going? [listening pause] Yeah? Excellent! See, things didn't go to hell in six minutes. [listening pause] Oh, please, I'm *rarely* late to a shift, and you *know* I'll stay the extra time if work isn't complete. [A.I trills] I *always* get it done. [A.I trills mockingly] Hey, tell your new A.I assistant to *chill*. Geeze. I'd tell 'em to take a drink, but, you know – not human [A.I trills indignantly]

Why don't you unplug them? Bring your old one back? Whatever happened to her, anyway? [listening pause] Oh, shit. Yikes. 'kay, well, why don't we get to it? First target? [notification sound] Ooh. Really? Oh that should be fun. Okay, give me a second. [typing noises] Great. Alright. Estimated Downfall time: three to five minutes. Next?

[notification sound] And that... oh I reckon if we [typing sounds] repeat what we did in Indiana, and tie that with what we did in Brisbane – okay. Okay. Yep. Estimated Downfall time: one to three minutes. [listening pause] Yeah well this is child's play. [listening pause, exhales in annoyance] the way you were harping on at the start of the call made it sound like we had a tonne of work–this is easy. What do ya got?

[notification sound] Okay! Yeah... I think if we... [typing sounds, listening pause] No, that's not gonna work. There's no access to the grid there... Okay. Okay. Okay, how about if we... just... mess with *this* faultline... Estimated Downfall time: twelve to seventeen minutes. [spoon stirring porcelain cup, lifting off desk] So, how's your day been? [sipping before placing back down onto desk, listening pause] Oh, come on! Can't have been that boring. You didn't even log on until, like, three hours ago – that's *so much* daylight, what do you get up to? [listening pause] Yeah? [listening pause]. Oh–oh, that was a joke, okay. Fiiiine, keep ya secrets. Next?

[notification sound] Oh, this is... [[song #2](#) plays] interestiiing. Okay. [typing sounds] Yeah, if I just call in that favour... perfect! Ah that estimated Downfall time will beee.... Hold on, I'm just waiting for confirmation from my contact... [confirmation sound] Yeah? Okay! Estimated Downfall time: seven to eight minutes. Who's next?

[notification sound] Right. Yeah, that's... [typing sounds] that's doable. Yeah, easy. Estimated Downfall time: one to two minutes. [notification sound] And this– [thinking pause] Oh I don't have the clearance for this! [A.I trilling matter-of-factly] *No!* I–I mean, I mean I attempted something like this last month and then I got blocked because I didn't have the reach, why–why's it telling me that I can? I can't– [A.I trilling insistently] Hey– [A.I trilling in a low tone] No... [A.I trilling bluntly] I'm telling you, if *I attempt this*... they're gonna *boot me* off the line. [A.I trilling nonchalantly] Yeah, and it's *your* kind that told me that I couldn't in the first place–now you're telling me that I can? [A.I trilling aggressively] Coz, I mean, it's fine if I *can*, but– [A.I trilling animatedly] Well, I don't know, get your record straight: can I or can't I? [A.I trilling curtly] *That's what I thought.* Give me a different one.

[notification sound] 'kay. [typing sounds] Yeah, okay, this is much more up my alley—not that I can't work miracles, but, yeah. I just have to re-route the power throuuugh... New York and then just flip it over to *that* island... Estimated Downfall time: eleven to fifteen minutes.

[notification sound] Wait. Wait, there has to be an error... That's... [typing sounds] myyy location.... That's *my* location!! [[song #3](#) plays] [A.I trills indifferently] What do you mean I was insubordinate, and can be replaced?! [typing sounds] This better be some kind of piss-poor joke from Management coz I'm. not. laughing! [notification sound] Twenty-three seconds?? ... *Estimated twenty-three?! [headphones flung off and computer chair kicked out from beneath them, rolling across the room] No, no, no, no!! [water bursts from a pipe, closing chat notification sound as water continues to gush] Not like THI- [sudden electricity zapping and water continues to fill room]*

[water and electricity continue to mix, water stops gushing, her body is implied to be splashing, electricity scatters around the room, sounds of a body twitching in the water before the song abruptly stops]

Outro - 7:21

[[Vignettes outro theme](#) plays, VO joins 6 seconds in]

LEA VO: You've been listening to Vignettes. This show was created, performed, and edited by Lea Lawson. All music and SFX are used under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 license, royalty free licenses, or are original. For extended credits, please see the show notes. If you'd like to shout me a coffee visit ko-fi.com/leals Thanks for listening. May we meet in another realm :)

Links/Music credits

[Official site](#), [Bluesky](#), [Podchaser](#)

Vignettes Theme: "[Grief Wears Many AKA Spicy Noodle Supreme Leader](#)" by Maria Damianou & Lea Lawson

Song #1: "See You Never" by [Tim Kulig](#)

Song #2: "Find a Weapon" by [Tim Kulig](#)

Song #3: "Cybernetic Afterhours Rave" by [Tim Kulig](#)

Outro Theme: "Third Noodle Stuck in Reverse" by Maria Damianou & Lea Lawson

