

KNO KNEWS

1.04: LICH-ERALLY UNPRECEDENTED

Draft 1

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**INT. KNO NEWS STAFF CALL - DAY**

VANCE MCTAGGART sits at his computer. His eyes are shut. He's like a robot on standby. There's the beep of an alert and THEA GRIFFITH pops on screen.

THEA  
Vance?

Vance snaps to.

VANCE  
Oh, Thea.

THEA  
Were you sleeping?

VANCE  
No, my eyes just... needed moisture.

THEA  
I-

VANCE  
It's a science thing.

THEA  
I see.

VANCE  
How are you getting on.

THEA  
Not great, with the whole stuck in the apartment thing.

VANCE  
Yeah, you're telling me. Just typical that we'd disturb an ancient crypt resulting in an awakening of liches. That's so Irish.

THEA  
Suuuure.

There's another beep. ZACHARY O'RIORDAN pops into the call.

ZACHARY  
Hey, what's up.

THEA  
Hey Zachary.

ZACHARY

Hey Vance.

Vance checks his watch.

VANCE

Where's Kairi?

ZACHARY

I sent her a text about the meeting, she-

VANCE

Where could she be?

There's another beep and KAIRI O'CALLAGHAN-WALSH appears in the call. Her hair is slightly dishevelled.

VANCE (CONT'D)

Kairi, there you are.

KAIRI

Sorry I'm late, I was trying to find a lich for an interview.

ZACHARY

You couldn't find any?

KAIRI

No.

THEA

Pity.

VANCE

(clears his throat)

I think we can get started now.

Thea, Zachary and Kairi nod and open up notepads.

VANCE (CONT'D)

So as you all know, we have a bit of a Lich crisis going on at the minute. For some reason, the dead rising is too much of a risk for people to go to work therefore we can't go into the studio. So, Mr Reilis and the rest of the studio heads have suggested we have a meeting to go over how we handle this story and also to see if we can try to rework some segments for this new climate.

Everyone takes a second to think about the brief.

THEA

Why don't we start with some of the segments we already have.

VANCE

Great idea, Thea.

THEA

Zachary do you have one ready?

ZACHARY

Well, ah... ok right, yeah kind of.

VANCE

Send it over. Now.

Zachary exhales.

**INT. PADRAIG & MALACHY'S ZOOM CALL - DAY**

MALACHY sits at his desk. He plays on his phone. PADRAIG pops into the call.

PADRAIG

Greetings.

Malachy's head shoots up and he falls back.

MALACHY

Not you.

PADRAIG

You think I'm happy to see you?

MALACHY

Don't talk to me.

Malachy goes back to his phone.

PADRAIG

Why were you chosen for the Lich Task Force, what on earth could you possibly contribute?

MALACHY

I said don't talk to me.

I- PADRAIG

Ah-

MALACHY (CONT'D)

Padraig frowns.

PADRAIG (CONT'D) MALACHY (CONT'D)  
I- Ah, ah-

PADRAIG (CONT'D)  
Fine, I'll just wait for everyone  
else to show up.

**INT. MUIRNE AND DYMPHNA'S ZOOM CALL - DAY**

MUIRNE sits in front of her computer. She types up a report.  
Dymphna appears in the call. Muirne looks at her.

MUIRNE  
Dymphna, hi.

DYMPHNA  
Ms Ni Mhuirtigh Shuilleabhain.

MUIRNE  
So, I'm sure you've been briefed on  
this already, but Sinn Fein are  
interested in forming a united  
front with the Green Party against  
the government on the issue of the  
Lich invasion.

DYMPHNA  
Right.

MUIRNE  
And we're going to be discussing  
some concepts on a lower level, to  
see if it's viable, or something  
both parties want to go forward  
with.

DYMPHNA  
I see.

MUIRNE  
So. Let's start spitballing some  
ideas.

DYMPHNA  
See, the thing is, I don't think  
it's all that helpful.

MUIRNE  
What do you mean?

DYMPHNA

Don't get me wrong, I think that the Lich invasion is definitely bad. It's a bad thing to happen.

MUIRNE

Yeah it sucks, the dead roam the streets.

DYMPHNA

But see, I know it's bad, but it's not that bad.

Muirne stares at the screen.

**\*LJ CLEARY VT PLAYS\***

**INT. KNO NEWS STAFF CALL - DAY**

VANCE laughs. KAIRI is shiftless in her seat. ZACHARY looks at the ground.

THEA

Are you ok now?

ZACHARY

Yeah, it was just a broken nose.

THEA

I don't think that's one we should use.

KAIRI

I agree. Pro wrestling hasn't been news since Hulk Hogan had sex with the wife of a friend.

VANCE

No, no, we're keeping that in.

THEA

How can we possibly twist that into something to do with liches?

VANCE

Doesn't matter, he got beat up. We can't let that just not be on television.

Kairi leans forward.

KAIRI  
Vance, Vance.

VANCE  
Kairi.

KAIRI  
Can I show my segment now?

VANCE  
Sure-

KAIRI  
Ok.

**INT. PADRAIG & MALACHY'S ZOOM CALL - DAY**

PADRAIG and MALACHY stare into their cameras.

PADRAIG  
They're probably just running late.  
It's only been-

He checks his watch.

PADRAIG (CONT'D)  
An hour.

MALACHY  
Should we just try and come up with  
some bullet point solutions for  
this lich thing.

PADRAIG  
Fine.

**INT. PADRAIG & MALACHY'S ZOOM CALL - DAY (LATER)**

PADRAIG is flipping through a notepad.

PADRAIG  
Could we... could we...

MALACHY  
Could we just use the army? Shoot  
them, they're just reanimated dead  
things, doesn't mean that they  
can't be killed.

PADRAIG  
That's exactly why they can't die,  
they're already dead.

MALACHY  
You don't know that.

PADRAIG  
It's common sense.

MALACHY  
If you just keep shooting them-

PADRAIG  
What's that supposed to achieve?

MALACHY  
If you shoot them, like a lot, then there won't be anything left. Or the head, we could shoot them in the head-

PADRAIG  
(quiet)  
I wish I could shoot you in the head.

MALACHY  
What?

PADRAIG  
(pretending there's connection issues)  
Wh- connec- I can- Ok wait I'm back.

MALACHY  
Ok, let's just put the army down as a maybe. What about the navy and airforce?

They both pause. Padraig bursts out laughing. Malachy laughs along too.

**\*MURDER VT PLAYS\***

**INT. KNO NEWS STAFF CALL - DAY**

KAIRI grins. VANCE nods his head. THEA's eyes are wide.

VANCE  
I like it.

THEA  
Did you kill someone?



Kairi frowns.

KAIRI

Did you not hear me? I said we'll never know who the killer was. If I was the killer I think I'd know.

THEA

Oh come on-

ZACHARY

It easily ties into the current lich zeitgeist.

THEA

How?

ZACHARY

The guy who was killed is dead, and the liches are also dead.

VANCE

That guy could be the first lich!

KAIRI

It's not true, but screw you prove us wrong, right?

Vance jots some notes down.

VANCE

Right!

**INT. MUIRNE AND DYMPHNA'S ZOOM CALL - DAY**

MUIRNE is crunching and uncrunching a ball of paper in her fist.

MUIRNE

What do you mean we can't blame the government for this!

DYMPHNA

They're doing as good a job as they can.

MUIRNE

You don't know that!

DYMPHNA

I don't see how they're at fault.

MUIRNE

The building development they gave the green light to literally opened an ancient evil crypt.

DYMPHNA

Why are you so opposed to building housing?

**INT. KNO NEWS STAFF CALL - DAY**

VANCE, ZACHARY, THEA and KAIRI are still on the call.

VANCE

Ok, so we have the segments retrofitted for the current news cycle-

ZACHARY

I still don't see how me getting beat up fits-

VANCE

Shutupshutupshutupshutupshutup!

Zachary quiets down. Vance smiles.

VANCE (CONT'D)

Now we need to start figuring out how we're going to handle the lich uprising / awakening / invasion thing.

THEA

Do we have any specifics on the government response?

ZACHARY

They gave a very strongly worded speech denouncing the undead.

THEA

I think we should try working on communicating with members of the government. Civil servants even.

Vance texts on his phone.

VANCE

I am currently in a communicative exchange with a government contact as we speak.

KAIRI  
Is it Malachy?

**INT. PADRAIG AND MALACHY'S ZOOM CALL - DAY**

MALACHY and PADRAIG are still discussing solutions. Malachy's phone buzzes and he checks it. He begins typing.

PADRAIG  
Fire? Have we said fire?

**INT. KNO NEWS STAFF CALL - DAY**

VANCE shakes his head.

VANCE  
A good journalist never reveals his sources.

KAIRI  
You're not a journalist, you're a news anchor.

Beat.

VANCE  
Yes, it's Malachy.

THEA  
That douchebag?

VANCE  
I wish, you'd be more accepting of my friends.

THEA  
Why?

ZACHARY  
I actually think we should give Malachy a chance.

Vance looks like he's about to argue with Zachary, but stops himself.

**INT. PADRAIG & MALACHY'S ZOOM CALL - DAY**

MALACHY spins in his chair.

PADRAIG  
What if-

MALACHY

Yes?

PADRAIG

What if we negotiated with the Liches.

Malachy cocks his head.

MALACHY

Like, you negotiating with the Liches?

PADRAIG

Why not?

MALACHY

I think it's a good idea.

PADRAIG

You do?

MALACHY

Yes, I imagine you have a lot in common with an ancient undead monster.

Padraig frowns.

PADRAIG

Is that a joke? I can't tell.

Malachy gets up and walks away from the computer, his head in his hands.

From Padraig's side of the call we hear Lich-y sounds, then the smash of glass. Padraig jumps out of his seat.

PADRAIG (CONT'D)

Malachy!

Malachy runs back to his computer.

MALACHY

What's going on?

We hear more Lich-y sounds. Closer. Padraig is hyperventilating.

PADRAIG

I think, I think one of them is in my house.

MALACHY

You're going to have to be a bit clearer here Padraig, one of who?

PADRAIG

The liches! The liches!

Padraig gets up from his seat and slowly edges towards the door of the room. Malachy watches, breath held.

Padraig opens his door a crack. His eyes widen and he slams the door shut.

MALACHY

All good?

PADRAIG

In the kitchen! It's in the kitchen.

MALACHY

Ah.

PADRAIG

Send help!

MALACHY

That sucks.

PADRAIG

Malachy I swear to god!

MALACHY

Take care of yourself.

PADRAIG

Malachy!

MALACHY

Bye!

PADRAIG

Malachy-

Malachy leaves the call.

**INT. KNO NEWS STAFF CALL - DAY**

ZACHARY has begun covertly vaping.

VANCE

Let's move on to business news.

THEA

Right, well I think the liches could present some exciting opportunities in terms of long term loans so we could see a lot of financial institutions coming out with brand new- sorry Zachary are you vaping on the call?

Zachary hold in a cloud of vape.

VANCE

Open your mouth.

Zachary slowly starts to release some vape.

VANCE (CONT'D)

Open!

Zachary opens his mouth and a HUGE cloud of vape fills the screen.

VANCE (CONT'D)

Alright Zachary, sports news. What are you going to do?

ZACHARY O'RIORDAN

Well, uh, there's kind of no sports going on right now. Because y'know...

VANCE

Do you think that's good enough?

KAIRI

No!

Vance does a double take.

VANCE

Zachary.

ZACHARY

Beyond just saying there's no sports I don't know what you want from me Van-

VANCE

I want more! I want the news!

ZACHARY O'RIORDAN

That is news-

VANCE

Did you just speak back to me, you-

Thea clears her throat.

THEA

Why don't we keep going with some ideas. Maybe we could try get some human interest stories?

KAIRI

Liches; Do They Feel?

THEA

Something like that, right. People eat that stuff up all the time.

KAIRI

I could reach out to my old ethics professor for the segment.

ZACHARY O'RIORDAN

The married one who impregnated a student?

KAIRI

Yes.

ZACHARY O'RIORDAN

Just checking.

THEA

That explains so much.

KAIRI

What?

THEA

Sor- I- Conn- Can't hear y-. Oh wait sorry I'm back. Bad connection.

VANCE

Zachary I'm sorry, no I'm not sorry I just can't deal with you being here right now.

Zachary tries to argue to Vance hushes him.

VANCE (CONT'D)

Please go away and get me some sports news.

ZACHARY O'RIORDAN  
Vance, we're not supposed to leave  
the house.

VANCE  
Please. Go away.

Zachary looks like he's about to respond but shakes his head.  
He disappears from the call.

There's a chorus of lich-y sounds from outside Kairi's house.

KAIRI  
Oh my God, there's liches outside  
my house.

THEA  
Hide!

KAIRI  
What? No, I'm going to get an  
interview.

VANCE  
Good thinking.

Kairi nods and disappears from the call.

**INT. MUIRNE AND DYMPHNA'S ZOOM CALL - DAY**

A notification beep can be heard from Muirne's computer.

Muirne looks at it and sags.

DYMPHNA  
Frankly I think you people have  
enough death on your plate-

MUIRNE  
Oh no.

DYMPHNA  
What is it?

MUIRNE  
It's Malachy McTiernan. He's trying  
to get on the call.

DYMPHNA  
Oh, let him on.

MUIRNE  
Absolutely not.



Dymphna thinks for a second.

DYMPHNA

Do you not think it could help to know more about the government's plans?

Muirne hits her head against her desk. Face down she clicks "accept caller".

Malachy appears in the call.

MALACHY

Hey babe.

DYMPHNA

Hi Malachy

MALACHY

Jesus Christ- where's Muirne?

Muirne raises her head.

MUIRNE

What do you want?

MALACHY

I just want to talk about things, the liches, us-

MUIRNE

Please stop.

DYMPHNA

Us?

MALACHY

I keep forgetting you exist. What are you two doing?

MUIRNE

We're just-

DYMPHNA

I'm getting married, we're just chatting about wedding venues.

MALACHY

I don't believe you.

MUIRNE

What are you up to?

Malachy rubs his eyes.

MALACHY

Ugh, I'm on the Lich Response Task Force with Padraig.

DYMPHNA

Paine?

MALACHY

Yup. I'm going to kill myself.

MUIRNE

They put you two in charge of dealing with solutions to the Lich problem?

MALACHY

I'm doing great, he's a waste of time.

DYMPHNA

What solutions have you come up with.

Malachy checks his notepad.

MALACHY

We had, using the army to shoot them over and over again, we had the navy and the airforce doing the same but scratched that one. We had fire, we had-

MUIRNE

Fire?

MALACHY

Yes, we just wrote down fire.

Malachy shows them the notepad, with FIRE scrawled in all caps.

MUIRNE

Amazing.

MALACHY

We left off with the idea of Padraig negotiating with the Liches.

Dymphna laughs.

DYMPHNA

Did you tell him he looks like one?

MALACHY

Yes!

Dymphna laughs again.

MUIRNE

Aren't you like 60?

Dymphna stops laughing.

DYMPHNA

45.

MALACHY

And then like, a Lich broke into his house.

What?

DYMPHNA

What?

MUIRNE

MALACHY

Yeah it was wild.

DYMPHNA

Is he alive?

MALACHY

He was when I left him.

DYMPHNA

We have to help him.

MALACHY

Ehhhhh.

DYMPHNA

Muirne?

MUIRNE

Ehhhhh.

DYMPHNA

I will report both of you as accessories to a murder.

MUIRNE

I don't think the Lich premeditated-

DYMPHNA

Manslaughter then!

**INT. PADRAIG, MALACHY, MUIRNE & DYMPHNA'S ZOOM CALL - DAY**

MALACHY pops back into his call with PADRAIG. DYMPHNA and MUIRNE join in.

Padraig is nowhere to be seen.

DYMPHNA  
Where is he?

MALACHY  
In a lich?

The door to Padraig's office opens and Padraig strolls in. He walks over to his computer and sits down.

PADRAIG  
What an earth are you lot doing here?

MUIRNE  
Long story, where's the lich?

PADRAIG  
It's in the kitchen.

MALACHY  
You hardly killed it.

PADRAIG  
No, no. I've been feeding it.

Everyone does a double take.

MALACHY  
With your dog?

PADRAIG  
With bananas, you idiot. It's not actually that bad, it's quite friendly.

MUIRNE  
So we don't need to fight them, they're friendly?

PADRAIG  
I think they're just hungry, yes.

DYMPHNA  
Well that solves a lot of issues.

MALACHY

I can't believe Padraig has saved us. I'm not willing to accept that in my head.

A clock alarm goes off.

PADRAIG

Ah, time for another banana.

Padraig gets up and leaves the office.

MALACHY

So can we all go now or-

There's a crash off screen followed by harrowing lich-y cries.

PADRAIG (O.S.)

No! No, no, no, no!

Malachy and Muirne's faces light up.

The door to the office opens and Padraig shuffles back in. He sits in front of the computer dejected.

DYMPHNA

What happened?

PADRAIG

I dropped some salt on it and it melted.

MALACHY

You melted the lich, with salt?

Padraig sniffs.

PADRAIG

Yes.

Malachy jots down "SALT" with a massive tick.

MALACHY

Ok and with that I bring to a close the Lich Response Task Force, thank you for everything Padraig, Muirne please call back.

DYMPHNA

I'm here too-

Malachy exits the call. Muirne exits. Then Dymphna. Padraig leans back in his chair and spins.

**INT. KNO NEWS STAFF CALL - DAY**

Vance takes a deep breath.

THEA  
You doing ok there Vance?

VANCE  
Yes.

THEA  
Ok.

VANCE  
No. No I'm not ok. I miss doing the news.

THEA  
Hey, it's ok, it's been less than a day.

Vance nods.

VANCE  
I know, but... I just, I can't- I can't wrap my head around this lich thing.

THEA  
It's kind of unprecedented, yeah.

VANCE  
And I can't screw this up. I can't mess up like I did at RTE.

THEA  
You didn't- ok look I don't think any of us are perfect.

VANCE  
I threw up on Michael D Higgins. I covered him in it.

THEA  
Well, he doesn't have much surface area to him to be fair.

VANCE  
And then you dumped me.

THEA  
Hang on, no. No.

VANCE

What am I going to do Thea?

Thea leans back.

THEA

Look, you know I think you are a really, really... unique and strong news anchor. Liches, yeah it's a tough one. But if you can throw up on the president and sign off on what is very clearly a murder, then I totally believe that you can pull yourself up and do the news.

VANCE

Because no one else can?

THEA

Suuure.

VANCE

Well. I guess you're right. I need to tackle this undead thing straight on.

Thea smiles.

VANCE (CONT'D)

Let's get going with that human interest story you were thinking of, and we can start reaching out to those financial institutions, see if there's any move on tapping into the lich market.

THEA

I'll get right on it.

VANCE

We've got Zachary out finding some sports stories, Kairi getting us that lich interview. We've got things going, we've got options. We might actually-

Vance's phone rings. Vance pauses and opens it up.

VANCE (CONT'D)

Hey, what's up?

There's the sound of chatter on the other end.

VANCE (CONT'D)  
Salt? For real?

More chatter.

VANCE (CONT'D)  
Ok. Ok, thanks. Yes. Sweet. Later.  
Later, later, later.

Vance turns off the phone. He stares off into the void.

THEA  
What was that?

VANCE  
I need to be alone for a while.

Thea nods. She leaves the call. Vance buries his head in his arms.

**\*PITCH VT PLAYS\***

Vance nods.

VANCE MCTAGGART  
I see. And what teams are playing  
tomorrow, Zachary?

**EXT. FOOTBALL PITCH - EVENING**

Zachary stands still, glassy eyed.

VANCE MCTAGGART (O.S.)  
Zachary?

ZACHARY O'RIORDAN  
Two football teams.

VANCE MCTAGGART (O.S.)  
Two football teams?

ZACHARY O'RIORDAN  
Yes.

VANCE MCTAGGART (O.S.)  
Which ones?

Zachary sways in the wind.

ZACHARY O'RIORDAN  
Home and away?



**INT. STUDIO - EVENING**

VANCE stares at Zachary.

VANCE  
(censored)  
Fuck you.