

GIGI'S FOLLY Episode 02
The Hostage in Charge

Written by

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Based on, If Any

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INT. APARTMENT - GIGI'S ROOM - NIGHT

An unsettling silence.

The kind that feels intentional.

Soft, dim lighting spills across the room, barely illuminating the corners.

The camera moves slowly, cautiously... as if afraid of disturbing whatever is happening.

Faint whispers break the silence.

Strained. Nervous.

We DISCOVER— JACKIE, SHUAIB, and CHRISTINA tied up and seated awkwardly on the floor.

Their restraints are... humiliating.

Loose knots. Children's adhesive tape. One rope is clearly a shoelace.

They are technically bound— but only just.

JACKIE
(whispering, panicked)
...Are we being kidnapped?

SHUAIB
(struggling, furious but
quiet)
I told you. I TOLD you.
Never trust kids.

He tugs at the rope— it almost comes loose.

Christina tries to speak.

She can't.

Her mouth is gagged with a pink sock. Cartoon hearts on the heel.

Her eyes burn with rage and humiliation.

The camera drifts away from them..

Past scattered toys. Past a bookshelf filled with comics and puzzle books.

It stops at a small desk.

Sitting there.

GIGI.

Calm. Relaxed.

She's seated on a swivel chair, legs crossed, sipping juice through a straw.

On the desk in front of her: an open laptop.

The screen shows a recording interface.

A red light blinks.

REC.

Gigi clicks the mouse.

The room is now officially.. documented.

She leans slightly toward the screen, cheerful and composed.

GIGI
(soft, sweet, unsettling)
Alright..

She takes another sip.

GIGI (CONT'D)
Now we begin the test.

She smiles.

Not evil. Not playful.

Professional.

The three "criminals" exchange terrified looks.

They suddenly understand something far worse than fear—

They've lost control.

Gigi spins slightly in her chair, like a teacher about to start a fun lesson.

She clears her throat softly.. presses PAUSE on the recording, then RECORD again.

She smiles.

GIGI (CONT'D)
(cheerful, polite)
Hi. Welcome.

She gives a small wave to the laptop camera.

GIGI (CONT'D)
If you're watching this, it means
one of two things.
(beat)
Either you're very brave...
(another beat)
Or very, very bad at kidnapping.

Jackie groans. Shuaib rolls his eyes.

Gigi ignores them.

GIGI (CONT'D)
This is a controlled environment.
Which means—no screaming, no
fighting, and absolutely no
dramatic crime speeches.

She gently points at Jackie.

GIGI (CONT'D)
Especially you.

Jackie freezes.

GIGI (CONT'D)
Now, let's go over the rules of the
test.

She raises one finger.

GIGI (CONT'D)
Rule number one:
You do not hurt anyone.
(smiles)
Not me. Not each other. Not even
emotionally.

Christina scoffs behind the sock.

Gigi tilts her head.

GIGI (CONT'D)
Rolling your eyes counts as
emotional violence.

Christina immediately stops.

Gigi raises a second finger.

GIGI (CONT'D)
 Rule number two:
 You listen when I speak.
 (pauses, thinking)
 Actually... you listen even when I
 don't.

She nods, pleased with herself.

GIGI (CONT'D)
 Rule number three:
 No lying.

She leans forward slightly.

GIGI (CONT'D)
 I'm very good at puzzles.
 And people are just puzzles that
 talk too much.

Jackie swallows hard.

Gigi raises a fourth finger.

GIGI (CONT'D)
 Rule number four:
 You follow the schedule.

She clicks the laptop. A simple DAILY CHART appears on
 screen:

- Wake up - Breakfast - Quiet time - No arguing - Evaluation

GIGI (CONT'D)
 Bad behavior gets points deducted.
 Good behavior gets... privileges.

She smiles innocently.

GIGI (CONT'D)
 Like snacks.
 Or untied shoelaces.

Shuaib stops moving.

Gigi raises her fifth finger.

GIGI (CONT'D)
 And finally—rule number five.

She stands up from the chair.

Walks slowly in front of them.

GIGI (CONT'D)
You don't call yourselves
criminals.
(beat)
You are participants.

She crouches slightly to their level.

GIGI (CONT'D)
This is an experiment.
A test of patience. Teamwork. And
basic intelligence.

She straightens up.

GIGI (CONT'D)
So don't worry.
(smiling brightly)
If you pass...

She presses STOP RECORDING.

The red light goes off.

GIGI (CONT'D)
I might even let you kidnap me
properly.

Silence.

Absolute silence.

Then.

SHUAIB
(whispering)
...I want my mom.

Gigi smiles.

INT. APARTMENT - GIGI'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Silence hangs heavy.

Suddenly-

THE DOOR BURSTS OPEN.

SIRAJ AL-DIN steps in.

He freezes.

Takes in the scene:

Jackie, Shuaib, and Christina tied up like failed birthday decorations. Gigi standing proudly near the desk.

A long beat.

SIRAJ AL-DIN

(stunned)

...What.

(beat)

Is.

(beat)

This?

Gigi turns toward him, smiling brightly.

GIGI

Oh! Perfect timing.
You came right at the evaluation
phase.

SIRAJ AL-DIN

(shouting)

Enough!

Gigi flinches.

SIRAJ AL-DIN (CONT'D)

This has gone too far.
Go to the wall. You're punished.

Gigi's eyes widen.

Then—She starts jumping in place, dramatically.

GIGI

(indignant, loud)

WHAT?!

This is unfair! You're ruining the
fun!

She hops again.

GIGI (CONT'D)

This is a violation of creative
freedom!

SIRAJ AL-DIN

Now.

To the wall.

GIGI
 (shouting while jumping)
 This is dictatorship!
 Pure dictatorship!

She points accusingly.

GIGI (CONT'D)
 History will remember this moment,
 Siraj!

SIRAJ AL-DIN
 Stop talking.

Gigi gasps.

GIGI
 You see?!
 Silencing voices! Classic
 authoritarian behavior!

SIRAJ AL-DIN
 (to himself)
 I'm counting to three.

Gigi immediately turns around and marches toward the wall.

She stops, facing it.

Crosses her arms.

GIGI
 (muttering loudly)
 I was conducting an experiment...
 For science.

Siraj exhales sharply.

He moves to the others and starts freeing them.

As he unties Jackie.

SIRAJ AL-DIN
 I leave you alone for five minutes..

Jackie stretches his arms.

JACKIE
 (defensive)
 She tied us up!
 With emotional manipulation!

Siraj frees Christina.

CHRISTINA
 (offended)
 That sock was expensive.

SIRAJ AL-DIN
 And you?

He unties Shuaib.

SHUAIB
 (confident)
 I was resisting psychologically.

SIRAJ AL-DIN
 You were gagged with a shoelace.

SHUAIB
 Exactly.

Siraj steps back, furious.

SIRAJ AL-DIN
 All of you should be ashamed.

The gang starts talking over each other.

JACKIE
 She said it was a test!

CHRISTINA
 She had charts!

SHUAIB
 There were points involved!

SIRAJ AL-DIN
 (shouting)
 Silence!

They freeze.

SIRAJ AL-DIN (CONT'D)
 You're supposed to be criminals.
 (points)
 Not participants.

He takes a breath.

SIRAJ AL-DIN (CONT'D)
 New decision.

They lean in, hopeful.

SIRAJ AL-DIN (CONT'D)
You're all punished.
(points to the wall)
To the wall.

All three stare at him.

SHUAIB
(confused)
I'm an adult.
You can't punish me.

Siraj slowly turns to him.

SIRAJ AL-DIN
Don't make me repeat myself.

A beat.

Shuaib sighs deeply... then walks toward the wall.

He does it while hopping, annoyed.

SHUAIB
(grumbling)
This is humiliating.

He takes his place next to Gigi.

Jackie follows, dragging his feet.

JACKIE
This gang has no structure.

Christina walks last, arms crossed.

CHRISTINA
I didn't sign up for discipline.

They all stand facing the wall, side by side.

A beat.

Then-Gigi whispers.

GIGI
(low, dramatic)
This is how revolutions start.

JACKIE
We're literally facing a wall.

SHUAIB
My legs are tired.

CHRISTINA
If anyone sees this, I'll deny
everything.

They all sigh.

GIGI
(soft, stubborn)
For the record..
My system was better.

Siraj watches them.

Shakes his head.

SIRAJ AL-DIN
Worst gang in history.

The four continue standing there, grumbling quietly like
punished children.

Siraj drags a chair to the middle of the room.

Sits.

Arms crossed.

Watching.

The four stand facing the wall like punished schoolkids.

Silence.

Too much silence.

Jackie slowly lifts one foot... then freezes.

He glances sideways.

Gigi doesn't move.

Shuaib wiggles his fingers.

Christina sighs dramatically.

SHUAIB
(whispering)
I can't feel my nose.

JACKIE
Don't move.

He smells fear.

Gigi clears her throat.

GIGI
(soft, serious)
On my signal.

Siraj raises an eyebrow.

GIGI (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
(whispering)
Now.

They all suddenly scatter.

Jackie bolts toward the kitchen. Shuaib dives behind the couch. Christina runs toward the hallway. Gigi sprints in the opposite direction.

Siraj doesn't even stand up.

He just sighs.

SIRAJ AL-DIN
No.

He rises calmly.

In seconds—

He grabs Jackie by the collar. Taps Shuaib on the head with two fingers. Stops Christina with an outstretched arm. Catches Gigi mid-run.

All gentle. Almost parental.

SIRAJ AL-DIN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
Enough cardio.

He guides them back to the wall.

Light taps. Soft pushes.

They return, defeated.

SHUAIB
(panting)
He's... fast.

JACKIE
I slipped on nothing.

CHRISTINA
This floor betrayed me.

They face the wall again.

A long pause.

Then—They slowly turn their heads toward Siraj.

All together.

JACKIE
(pleading)
Please.

SHUAIB
We surrender.

CHRISTINA
We'll behave.

Gigi turns last.

GIGI
(calculating)
We request negotiations.

Siraj sits back down.

Crosses his legs.

SIRAJ AL-DIN
You already had negotiations.

GIGI
And you shut them down violently.

SIRAJ AL-DIN
I touched no one violently.

GIGI
Emotionally.

Siraj exhales.

SIRAJ AL-DIN
You're exhausting.

Gigi smiles.

GIGI
Thank you.

Siraj stands.

Walks slowly toward her.

The others tense.

INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Siraj kneels slightly to Gigi's level.

Calm. Controlled.

SIRAJ AL-DIN
You think this is a game.

GIGI
It is a game.

SIRAJ AL-DIN
No.
It's a job.

GIGI
Then you're bad at it.

The gang gasps.

SIRAJ AL-DIN
(lower, dangerous)
Careful.

GIGI
(confident)
You kidnapped me wrong.

Siraj straightens.

SIRAJ AL-DIN
Explain.

GIGI
You didn't scare me.
You didn't isolate me. And you let
me bring my backpack.

She lifts it slightly.

GIGI (CONT'D)
Huge mistake.

Siraj pauses.

SIRAJ AL-DIN
You're twelve.

GIGI

And bored.

(beat)

You're the first interesting thing
That's happened to me all year.

Silence.

SIRAJ AL-DIN

So what do you want?

Gigi thinks.

Smiles.

GIGI

To help.

The gang reacts.

JACKIE

Help... kidnap you?

GIGI

No.

(turns to Siraj)

Help you not fail.

Siraj studies her.

Long beat.

SIRAJ AL-DIN

If I say no?

GIGI

Then I scream.

(cheerful)

Loud.

The gang panics.

SHUAIB

Please say yes.

Christina nods urgently.

Siraj closes his eyes.

Opens them.

SIRAJ AL-DIN

Fine.
(beat)
But one rule.

GIGI

Only one?

SIRAJ AL-DIN

I'm in charge.

Gigi smiles... then nods.

GIGI

Agreed.

She extends her hand.

Siraj hesitates... then shakes it.

The gang exhales in relief.

JACKIE

So... no wall?

SIRAJ AL-DIN

For now.

Gigi turns to the group.

GIGI

Congratulations.
(smiling sweetly)
You've been promoted.

SHUAIB

To what?

Gigi grins.

GIGI

My team.

They all freeze.

Siraj realizes--too late.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

A LOUD, CHEERFUL ALARM BLASTS.

♪ HAPPY CHILDREN'S MUSIC ♪

Jackie shoots upright on the couch.

JACKIE
(startled)
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!

Shuaib rolls off his mattress and hits the floor.

SHUAIB
(defensive)
I didn't steal anything!

Christina pulls a pillow over her head.

CHRISTINA
It's too early to be criminal.

Siraj sits already awake on a chair, sipping coffee.

Calm. Unbothered.

Gigi marches in, holding a CLIPBOARD.

She wears pajamas... and authority.

GIGI
Good morning, team!

No response.

GIGI (CONT'D)
I said—good morning.

Silence.

She clicks a pen.

GIGI (CONT'D)
Noted.
Bad attitude before breakfast.

She flips the clipboard around.

We SEE THE SCHEDULE, written in colorful markers:

07:00 - WAKE UP 07:05 - MAKE BEDS 07:15 - HYGIENE CHECK 07:30
- BREAKFAST (QUIET) 08:00 - TEAM BUILDING 09:00 - NO
ARGUMENTS ALL DAY - FOLLOW RULES

Jackie squints.

JACKIE
What is this?
Prison?

GIGI
Offended gasp.

GIGI (CONT'D)
No.
Prison has less structure.

Shuaib raises a hand.

SHUAIB
I don't do mornings.

GIGI
You do now.

Christina sits up, annoyed.

CHRISTINA
I need coffee before oppression.

GIGI
Coffee is a privilege.
(points at clipboard)
Earnable.

Siraj hides a smile behind his cup.

GIGI (CONT'D)
First task—make your beds.

Jackie looks at his couch.

JACKIE
This is my bed.

GIGI
Then respect it.

Jackie sighs and awkwardly straightens a pillow.

Shuaib tries to smooth his blanket... ends up tangled.

SHUAIB
This blanket is fighting back.

Gigi checks her watch.

GIGI
You're behind schedule.

SHUAIB
It's a blanket!

GIGI
Excuses are late behavior.

Christina slowly fixes her hair.

CHRISTINA
I was a free woman once.

GIGI
And now you're punctual.

Gigi claps once.

GIGI (CONT'D)
Breakfast time!

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

They sit around the table.

Bowls of cereal.

No sugar.

The gang stares at it like poison.

JACKIE
Where's the joy?

GIGI
Removed for efficiency.

Shuaib pours cereal... it spills everywhere.

GIGI (CONT'D)
(points)
Mess. Minus one point.

SHUAIB
(points at Siraj)
He spilled coffee yesterday!

GIGI
That was before the system.

Siraj raises his cup.

SIRAJ AL-DIN
I respect the system.

Gigi smiles proudly.

CHRISTINA
(whispering to Jackie)
She's terrifying.

JACKIE
She's organized evil.

Gigi looks up.

GIGI
Whispering is allowed.
(smiles)
Judging is not.

They eat in silence.

Painful silence.

Shuaib crunches loudly.

GIGI (CONT'D)
Chew quietly.

SHUAIB
I'm chewing emotionally.

GIGI
Minus one.

Shuaib drops his spoon.

SIRAJ AL-DIN
(to Gigi)
You're enjoying this.

GIGI
I waited twelve years for
authority.

She checks the clipboard.

GIGI (CONT'D)
Next-team building.

The gang groans in unison.

JACKIE
What kind?

Gigi flips the page.

Smiles.

GIGI
Trust exercises.

Everyone freezes.

Shuaib slowly stands.

SHUAIB
I don't trust any of you.

GIGI
Perfect.

Siraj leans back.

SIRAJ AL-DIN
This day is going to be long.

Gigi beams.

GIGI
Productive.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

The furniture has been awkwardly pushed aside.

Gigi stands in front of the group with her clipboard.

Excited.

GIGI
Welcome to...
Team Building.
No one claps.

GIGI (CONT'D)
Exercise number one:
The Trust Fall.

The gang freezes.

JACKIE
Absolutely not.

SHUAIB
I don't fall for anyone.

CHRISTINA
My insurance does not cover this.

GIGI
It's simple.

She points to Jackie.

GIGI (CONT'D)
You stand here.

Jackie reluctantly steps forward.

GIGI (CONT'D)
You close your eyes.

He doesn't.

GIGI (CONT'D)
You fall backward.

JACKIE
Hard no.

GIGI
(points at Siraj)
Even he trusts me.

Siraj blinks.

SIRAJ AL-DIN
I never said that.

Gigi blows a whistle.

GIGI
Positions!

Shuaib and Christina stand behind Jackie.

They look... unprepared.

GIGI (CONT'D)
Ready?

JACKIE
No.

GIGI
Three.

JACKIE
Wait-

GIGI
Two.

JACKIE
Hold on-

GIGI

One.

Jackie falls.

Shuaib sneezes.

Christina looks away.

Jackie hits the floor with a soft-but humiliating-THUD.

JACKIE

(on the floor)

I trusted you.

Gigi writes something down.

GIGI

Team failed.

SHUAIB

I panicked!

CHRISTINA

I thought he was joking!

GIGI

Next round.

They groan.

INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Now it's Shuaib's turn.

He stands stiff as a board.

SHUAIB

If I die, I haunt all of you.

GIGI

Eyes closed.

He closes one eye.

GIGI (CONT'D)

Both.

He closes the other.

GIGI (CONT'D)

Fall.

Shuaib leans back...

...then suddenly JUMPS FORWARD instead.

Crashes into the table.

The table collapses.

Cereal flies everywhere.

Milk splashes the wall.

Silence.

Siraj pinches the bridge of his nose.

SIRAJ AL-DIN
We're out of furniture.

Gigi stares.

GIGI
That was... unexpected.

Shuaib lifts his head.

SHUAIB
I don't trust gravity.

GIGI sighs.

GIGI
Final round.

Christina steps up.

CHRISTINA
If you drop me, I sue.

Gigi nods seriously.

GIGI
Fair.

Christina closes her eyes.

She falls back gracefully.

Jackie and Shuaib reach—

Miss.

She lands on a pile of pillows.

Perfect.

Christina opens one eye.

CHRISTINA
(smug)
See?

Gigi checks her clipboard.

GIGI
Incorrect.

Christina sits up.

CHRISTINA
I didn't fall.

GIGI
Exactly.

Siraj raises a hand.

SIRAJ AL-DIN
Exercise terminated.

Everyone exhales.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT (TAG SCENE)

The apartment is a mess.

Broken table. Spilled cereal. Exhausted criminals.

The gang slumps on the couch.

Gigi sits alone on the floor, quietly fixing her clipboard.

Siraj watches her.

SIRAJ AL-DIN
You wanted a team.

GIGI
I wanted effort.
(beat)
They're trying.

Siraj sits beside her.

SIRAJ AL-DIN
You can't force trust.

Gigi looks at him.

GIGI
Then how do you build it?

Siraj thinks.

SIRAJ AL-DIN
Time.
Mistakes. And surviving the same
mess.

They look at the destroyed room.

Gigi smiles slightly.

GIGI
We're excellent at mess.

Siraj almost laughs.

The gang watches them.

JACKIE
So... are we fired?

GIGI
No.
(soft)
You're still my team.

Shuaib smiles proudly.

SHUAIB
I knew it.

Christina leans back.

CHRISTINA
Worst kidnapping ever.

Gigi looks around at them.

For the first time—Not bored.

GIGI
Tomorrow... we try again.

Siraj nods.

SIRAJ AL-DIN
Tomorrow.

Gigi closes her clipboard.

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE TWO.