

## **SCENARIO B: MEMBER**

**Warning – this scenario deals with an explicit attempted sexual assault. Please let the facilitator know if you are unable to play this character.**

**CHARACTER SKETCH: “He shouldn’t be allowed to come in here.”**

**Name:** Leah

**Age:** 23

**Hometown:** Out-of-State/Urban City

**Sexual Orientation:** Straight

**Gender Identification:** Female

**Race/Ethnic Identity:** Mixed Race Heritage

**Religious Background:** Christian

### **Background:**

You’re a transfer student studying to be a microbiologist. You have spent most of your adult life living in communal housing and enjoy co-op environment. You figured it would be a great way to live in a community with people, not so attached to campus, without having to transfer into a “dorm.” You’ve developed a pretty good circle of friends over the last few months, both in the co-op and people associated with your major. You finally feel like you’ve settled in enough to call it a “home.”

### **Situation:**

It is the end of the term; a friend of yours invited you to a party that a bunch of people in the house was going to. You had just finished your final exam and thought it would be fun and so you went. It was being hosted at Jeff’s house, about a fifteen-minute walk from the co-op. You had been to Jeff’s house once before for a group study session, when his roommate John was in one of your classes.

Jeff is really good friends with most of the guys who live in the co-op. You had seen him around the co-op many times before, he was friendly and always said hello. Jeff was a member of the house until he graduated, about a year and a half ago, but wanted to remain in the area, because he loved living in a college town. From what you could tell he is well liked by many and very charismatic.

There was music, drinks, and food. People were in good spirits. Jeff was being extra polite host, making drinks and introducing people. As the evening progressed and things got much more lively you seemed to be running out of steam. You had a glass of wine and already felt foggy and a bit dizzy. You attributed it to red-bull withdrawal since you had been up the night before and early that morning cramming for your test. It began pouring rain outside, so you were hesitant to walk back and asked Natasha, who lived in the co-op, for a ride back when she was ready to leave, but it wouldn’t be for a couple more hours. You said that was fine since you weren’t in a rush, just tired, and opted to take a nap in one of the rooms upstairs until she was ready to go. You found John and asked if there was a place you could lay down, he directed you to Jeff’s room since his room was being used as the coatroom. As soon as your head hit the pillow you were out.

You woke up startled and confused, you had a pounding headache and you had a hard time keeping your eyes open, your body felt lethargic. You felt half awake and half asleep. You realize someone was on top of you. It was Jeff with his pants off. You had your top and skirt on, but no underwear. You began kicking, pushing, doing what ever you could to get him off, but your thoughts and your movements were not connecting. Jeff was holding your arms down, staring at you for what seemed forever. He looked

surprised to see you conscious. He took his hands off of you, put his finger over his lips making a “shhhh” motion. Staring at you the whole time, he slowly put his pants back on; he put your underwear back on, and walked towards the door. Before leaving, he motioned to you again, “shhhh.”

Next thing you knew you were in Natasha’s car in front of the co-op. She kept asking if you were okay, wondering if you had drank too much, as she was helping you up the stairs. You tried explaining to her what had happened in Jeff’s room, but she wasn’t getting it. You knew something wasn’t right. You only remember having one drink. You felt sick to your stomach. She helped you in the bathroom and into bed.

Natasha came over to your room in the morning to check on you. You threw up all morning and felt horrible. More coherent than before, you explained what you remembered about the previous night. Natasha, surprised and not really knowing how to react explained that Jeff had helped her get you into her car. On the way out, he had told her to take care of you, saying you were a “wild one.” Overwhelmed, you immediately asked her to take you to the hospital to get tested. You suspected you had been drugged. This had happened to one of your high school friends back home.

On the way there you make two phone calls. One to your best friend back home and the other to the staffer of the co-op to set up an appointment to talk to them about keeping Jeff out of the house. You leave a voice mail message for your friend. The staff person is available to see you in a couple of hours.

While in the office you do your best to keep it together focusing on task-oriented things. When explaining the situation, the emotional weight of what just happened sinks in. Your main concern is to keep Jeff out of the house. You don’t want to move, because you like where you live and it would add more insult to injury if you had to. You want to keep your privacy and you also want something to be done. You don’t want this happening to someone else.

### **Explore with your cluster:**

How are you feeling while you are waiting for the staff member to see you?

How much do you trust the staff member? You are worried that the staff member knows Jeff and likes him. When Jeff was living at the co-op he had been involved in leadership and had once been coordinator for recycling.

What kind of reaction do you expect from the staff member?

What are you most worried about or fearful of?

What do you want at minimum from the conversation and what would be your ideal?

What other types of support could the staff member offer you that would be helpful?

How would you feel/know if the conversation went well and you felt valued? Not well?

## **SCENARIO B: STAFF**

### **YOUR DAY THUS FAR:**

A female member calls your office, and says its important and she has to speak with you in person. It has been a busy day at the office; it's around 2pm. You have been dealing with contractors and assessors dealing with some structural damage on the south wing of the building. You have this window between 4:30-5:30pm and tell her to come in. She sounded anxious over the phone.

### **WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS STUDENT:**

#### **Background on the student in front of you:**

Leah is a transfer student in her early 20's studying to be a microbiologist. She's from an urban city, out of state. She's on the recycling team.

#### **Background on the past member Jeff who she brings up:**

Jeff use to live in the co-op. He graduated last year. While at the co-op he was on leadership and was the recycling coordinator. He comes around often, lives close by, drops by to say hello and still hangs out with other members in the co-op. Over all a good kid by your standards.