

LEMONADE GURUS

BY

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Cast of Characters

<u>Bandez</u> :	a former clown, lives with Lupe and is struggling financially
<u>Lupe</u> :	a former clown, lives with Bandez and is struggling financially
<u>Pete</u> :	a landlord that owns the majority of the neighborhood
<u>Man</u> :	a customer
<u>Woman</u> :	a customer
<u>Messenger</u> :	an employee of the kid

Scene

A sidewalk

Time

Present time

ACT I/SCENE 1

At Rise: Bandez is sitting behind a lemonade stand, wearing a green plaid shirt and jeans. Lupe walks onstage and is dressed in a red plaid shirt and jeans.

BANDEZ

(gets up)

Do you realize we're dressed almost identical?

LUPE

Very strange.

BANDEZ

What will people think?

LUPE

That we're brothers.

BANDEZ

I need to go home and change my clothes right now.

LUPE

It's all right if people think that.

BANDEZ

We don't want to give them something to gossip about. I can see it now: A plane flying above with a banner attached, saying, "Lupe and Bandez are brothers."

LUPE

This neighborhood is notorious for gossiping.

BANDEZ

This is our first day selling lemonade, and you know what? Jacob, the mechanic from down the block called me and asked, "What time are you setting up?" And we had planned to do this yesterday. Sometimes I think there are hidden cameras in our homes.

LUPE

The gossip here is pretty suspicious.

BANDEZ

Yesterday we found out that Mrs. Cransberry has dentures, and she's only twenty. That Kurt the lawyer is not a real lawyer, but failed law school. That the blind beggar from down the block isn't really blind but works full-time, has a house, and kids that attend private schools. It's ridiculous.

LUPE

I would rather be ignorant and left in the dark than hear about stuff like that. Makes you lose your trust in people.

BANDEZ

I had to change my voice mail message to "Hi, this is Bandez, Please leave a message after the beep and make sure it's not gossip. Thank you." So next time we go out together, let me know what you're wearing. This has probably hit Canada by now.

LUPE

I'll keep you informed.

BANDEZ

Do so. I reluctantly agreed to live with you after leaving the circus. As clowns we were dressed alike, but now I want to live a normal life.

LUPE

I get it.

BANDEZ

We need to sift through our clothes, see what looks alike, and burn it.

LUPE

(nods)

You think we'll raise enough money to pay our rent?

BANDEZ

I have no doubt that we will.

LUPE

How did you come up with this idea anyway?

BANDEZ

I met this little girl who boasted about her lemonade business. How her parents were living off of her, using her to pay their bills. It was a disturbing conversation, that's for sure. But it inspired me to start my own lemonade business.

LUPE

But that boy down the block has been doing this for years. We'll not be able to compete with him.

BANDEZ

We just have to win over the people.

LUPE

There is one thing he has that we don't have. A cute face.

BANDEZ

I agree.

LUPE

That kid can sell air in a cup.

BANDEZ

I think he has already done that.

(LUPE picks up the jug of lemonade, stares at it, shudders and and puts it down.)

LUPE

Being around lemonade makes me uneasy.

BANDEZ

Why?

LUPE

Childhood trauma.

BANDEZ

Lemonade?

LUPE

Every time I'd get a bruise my wicked big brother would cut open a lemon and press it against the bruise. I'm scarred to this day. If I drink lemonade bad things happen.

BANDEZ

Some brother.

LUPE

What day is it, Bandez?

BANDEZ

I don't know, I don't have a calendar since the days don't really matter to me.

LUPE

What about your birth date?

BANDEZ

I don't know, really. I think I'm near thirty.

LUPE

But you look fifty.

BANDEZ

Shut up, Lupe.

LUPE

I'm just saying.

BANDEZ

Keep your rude sayings to yourself. If I had you for a talking mirror, I'd be miserable all my life.

LUPE

I like to be honest, Bandez.

BANDEZ

Brutally honest I'd say.

(A man stops at the table.)

MAN

How much is your lemonade?

(They ignore him.)

BANDEZ

Lupe, If anybody asks you, just say I'm about thirty, and we'll still be friends, okay?

LUPE

Life will just pass you by if you don't keep count of the days.

BANDEZ

That reminds me. I don't have a life. That's why I don't have a calendar.

(The man walks away.)

BANDEZ

(To the man)

Can I help you, sir?

(The man keeps on walking.)

LUPE

Can you believe the nerve of that guy? Rudely walking away when two people are talking.

BANDEZ

That's why I need to get out this ratty neighborhood. When we get big, and turn this lemonade stand into a multi-million dollar business, we're getting out of here. And they'll miss us!

LUPE

Have we sold a cup yet?

BANDEZ

No, Lupe. We just need to be patient. There are still good people in this neighbor.

LUPE

Sometimes, I think we should have stayed in the circus as clowns.

BANDEZ

That den of wolves. We're not going back there. People don't know what goes on backstage. Stuff that makes you go crazy. I'm happy we got out before we lost our sanity.

LUPE

Back then we could pay our rent.

BANDEZ

Back then we were naive. True, we're going through some financial difficulty but I rather be homeless than join the circus again.

LUPE

I just don't know.

BANDEZ

You know back then who are best friends were?

LUPE

The animals?

BANDEZ

Right. Back then we didn't have any friends.

LUPE

Technically we have no friends now either.

BANDEZ

Are you kidding? We have lots of friends.

LUPE

Name one.

BANDEZ

Pete.

LUPE

You mean Pete our I'm going to throw you out if you don't pay your rent landlord.

BANDEZ

He's friendly, sometimes.

LUPE

When we hand him a check. But when we're back on our rent his knife is lovingly caressing our throats.

BANDEZ

That guy owns almost the whole neighborhood. But look at it this way, we're in a better position to make friends now than in the circus. Back then, who'd want to be friends with a bunch of clowns?

(They stare each other down.)

LUPE

Right.

BANDEZ

Right.

LUPE

I'm tired of struggling.

BANDEZ

I am too. But when this lemonade stand becomes a franchise business we'll have plenty of money and plenty of friends.

LUPE

I really want to believe that, but we've tried so many things. House Cleaning business, we burned down the house. Conducting at home cooking classes, we chopped off a lady's finger. Dog walking business, we lost the dogs. All twenty-one of them.

BANDEZ

Be positive.

LUPE

How can I after all those train wrecks?

BANDEZ

Are we suppose to give up? Throw in the towel? Bow down in the presence of defeat?

LUPE

You're right, Bandez. We should never give up no matter much we've been hurt and have hurt others.

BANDEZ

That's the spirit.

(BANDEZ looks at the audience.)

LUPE

What are you looking at?

BANDEZ

That old woman walking on the sidewalk.

LUPE

Why?

BANDEZ

She looks suspicious.

LUPE

Really?

BANDEZ

What old lady walks around with a purse? She's obviously someone in disguise. Call the cops Lupe.

(LUPE takes out his cellphone.)

LUPE

What's the number?

BANDEZ

I don't know.

LUPE

We should set up a neighborhood watch, so stuff like that doesn't happen.

BANDEZ

I'd tackle her while you go to the nearest precinct, but I'm afraid that she might be a ninja.

LUPE

That's possible.

BANDEZ

People think they're safe in this neighborhood.

LUPE

I think I'm safe.

BANDEZ

You've been misled.

LUPE

How so?