DUSTIN

She turned off her video.

(Lila chats to the group: “I turned off my video until everyone’s here.”)

GODDARD

Is that her gerbil?

DUSTIN

I think it’s a...

(Lila turns her video back on.)

LILA

It’s my hamster, Cezanne.

(Lila turns her video back off.)

GODDARD

Same thing, right?

DUSTIN

I think they’re different.

(Lila chats to the group: “They are totally different.” Maria returns, with mug.)

MARIA

I’m back.

DUSTIN

Better?

MARIA

Yes, thank you for asking.
DUSTIN
You’re welcome.

MARIA
You’re very thoughtful

DUSTIN
Thank you.

MARIA
Such a great colleague.

DUSTIN
Thank you, Maria.

MARIA
I mean it. I hate that there is this class distinction between staff and faculty.

DUSTIN
I don’t think there’s a...

MARIA
It really makes me mad. It’s not how I like to operate at all. I mean, you are as valuable a colleague as any faculty member. Now more than ever we have to shake this kind of thing off, you know? Come together.

DUSTIN
That’s... nice of you to say.

MARIA
You are like family to me. I mean it.
Thank you. So, Goddard, how was your...

MARI

And young people—you all are just gonna save this world. (starts to cry again) Did you say Dean is coming, right?

DUSTIN

Yes.

MARI

Is she back?

DUSTIN

No, she’s zooming in from the Naples campus. All the flights are cancelled.

GODDARD

(peering at himself)

My nostrils look like hell mouths.

(Heather enters.)

DUSTIN

It helps if your camera is at eye level.

HEATHER

Hello!

GODDARD

Hi, Heather.

HEATHER

Who’s the cute gerbil?