

*Stating this for universe's response:
I am ready to act again.
---Saffron Henke*

Saffron is Ready to Act

written by
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VIDEO UP ON:

INT. HOME OFFICE - DAY

SAFFRON, a fierce warrior in armor and battle spear. War paint if you like. (Not ethnic. More like Burning Man.) Broadcasting from her home office. Or somewhere in the backyard if it's nice out.

SAFFRON

I have decided to announce:
That I am ready to act again.

I have been cloistered in this
introvert purgatory long enough.
Waiting for something to happen.

But that's not how the universe
works. You don't wait. You go.
And you do. And I am so ready to
do... *whatever* it takes. If it
gets me out of this god forsaken
house. And into some god forsaken
character shoes!

Give me a stage.

Give me a screen.

Give me a dusty church basement
with a handful of straight-backed
chairs and a postage stamp stage
that you have to sweep before the
show every night in a costume you
brought from home. And restock the
toilet paper yourself, if you see
someone go in there at
intermission.

And give me someone to sweep the
stage and restock the toilet paper
for me, because I am not falling
for that again! *Megan!*

I am ready to act. Even in this
climate. Even in this crisis.
And, yes, I know exactly what that
means.

She whips out a dictionary:

Acting.

To take action. To do.

To pretend. To perform.

To play a role.

She closes the dictionary.

I'm ready to do my part.

And play my part.

And be my part so intensely

That all my friends are like,

"Why does Saffron keep washing her
hands? Is she afraid of getting
the coronavirus?"

No, I am not afraid.

But you should be, Duncan!!

She removes the slipcover from the dictionary, grins:

I made up all those definitions.

The real ones were boring.

This is a copy of Harry Potter with
a slipcover from a thesaurus.

She puts away the "dictionary".

And I'm not saying it has to be
Lady Macbeth.

Or Portia. Or Juliet.

Yes, Juliet, damn it!

I'm ready to act, and I don't care
what the role is. I don't care if
I'm right for the role.

I will make it right.

I will make it my own.

(MORE)

SAFFRON (CONT'D)
 There are no small roles. Only
 small actors.

The thought of that kinda pisses her off, though:

But if you give me a small role,
 you better stand the fuck back.
 Because I will go supernova on a
 supernumerary. Don't think I
 won't. You don't believe me?
 Here's the Officer from Henry VI,
 part 1:

INT. ANOTHER PART OF THE HOUSE - DAY

Saffron as Officer. She chews all the scenery:

SAFFRON (OFFICER)
 All manner of men assembled here in arms this
 day against God's peace and the king's, we
 charge and command you, in his highness'
 name, to repair to your several dwelling-places;
 and not to wear, handle, or use any sword,
 weapon, or dagger, henceforward, upon pain
 of death.

(breaking character)
 I mean, how does this guy only have
 one line?

*[Note: CHYRONS appear with every role, identifying the
 character and the play, even if Saffron doesn't mention it.
 Like this one:]*

Officer - Henry VI, part 1

Saffron grins:

SAFFRON
 How 'bout some pirates?

INT. HOME OFFICE - DAY

Saffron as a Pirate snarls into the camera:

SAFFRON (PIRATE)
A thousand crowns, or else lay down your
head.

Master – Henry IV, part 2

ANGLE ON: Saffron as Another Pirate

SAFFRON (SECOND PIRATE)
And so much shall you give, or off goes yours.

Mate – Henry IV, part 2

SAFFRON (FIRST PIRATE)
Half-part, mates, half-part.
Come, let's have her aboard suddenly.

Third Pirate - Pericles

EXT. PATIO - DAY

Saffron performs a death scene on the back patio.

SAFFRON (MESSENGER)
No, my lord, nor likely to be slain; for they have
won the bridge, killing all those that withstand
them: the lord mayor craves aid of your honour
from the Tower, to defend the city from the
rebels.

First Citizen – Henry VI, part 2

EXT. UNDER A BRIDGE - DAY

Darth Vader ACTION FIGURE is under a bridge somewhere.

SAFFRON (DARTH) (V.O.)
And I, here, at the bulwark of the bridge.

Glansdale – Henry VI, part 1

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Saffron as Royal Herald, bursts into the kitchen with a
trumpet, startling her family, who are just trying to eat
breakfast.

SAFFRON (HERALD)
 Edward the Fourth, by the grace of God, king
 of England and France, and lord of Ireland,
 &c.

Soldier – Henry VI, part 3

The family glares at her.

SAFFRON
 What? You don't like the classics?
 That's okay, I also do the new
 stuff.
 (grins mischievously)
 Here's Two Noble Kinsmen and Sir
 Thomas More...

INT. STORM CELLAR - DAY

Saffron, wearing the most Elizabethan costume possible, in
 the most Elizabethan-looking part of her house. Probably
 with a thick English accent.

SAFFRON (ROBIN)
 Faith, Harry, the head drawer at the Miter by
 the great Conduit called me up, and we went to
 breakfast into St. Anne lane. But come, who
 begins? in good faith, I am clean out of
 practise. When wast at Garrets school, Harry?

Robin – Sir Thomas More

ANGLE ON: Saffron also plays Harry.

SAFFRON (HARRY)
 Past eight of clock, my lord.

Clerk of the Council – Sir Thomas More

ANGLE ON: Saffron as Police Officer in a completely different
 production of the same play:

SAFFRON (OFFICER)
 Sir Thomas More, Lord Chancellor of England,
 I arrest you in the king's name of high treason.

Downes – Sir Thomas More

ANGLE ON: Saffron as Sir Thomas More.

SAFFRON (SIR THOMAS MORE)

Let us alone, sir.

Nell – Two Noble Kinsmen

INT. KITCHEN / DINING ROOM - DAY

Saffron (as Spy) whispers furtively into the phone, fearful that her family, in the background, might overhear. They are not even listening.

SAFFRON (SPY)

(furtively into phone:)

My liege, as we were pricking on the hills,
To fetch in booty, marching hitherward,
We might descry a might host of men;
The Sun, reflecting on the armour, shewed
A field of plate, a wood of picks advanced.
Bethink your highness speedily herein:
An easy march within four hours will bring
The hindmost rank unto this place, my liege.

Scottish Messenger – Edward III

Yes, sir.

Bavian – Two Noble Kinsmen

I hope, my lord, that is no mortal scar.

2nd English Esquire – Edward III

EXT. FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

Saffron, a little drunk, with a glass of red wine, raises a toast toward the house next door.

TIPSY SAFFRON

Here, neighbour Horner, I drink to you in a cup
of sack: and fear not, neighbour, you shall do
well enough.

First Neighbour – Henry VI, part 2

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Saffron's family is trying to eat breakfast. Saffron has wedged herself in between them, reading a gratuitous NEWSPAPER, wearing a gratuitous costume, and chomping on a cigar, if you like. Saffron looks up from the paper and asides to her Offspring in an unnecessary character voice:

SAFFRON (NEWSIE)

News, madam.

The British pow'rs are marching hitherward.

Second Messenger – King Lear

Offspring reacts as if this is getting a bit old, but it's also still hard to keep a straight face.

INT. BACK DOOR - DAY

Saffron's DOG is outside, barking to be let in. Saffron shakes her head:

SAFFRON

Whoe'er he be, you may not be let in.

Second Warder – Henry VI, part 1

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Tipsy Saffron stumbles into the kitchen with a half-empty glass of red wine. She spots a breakfast tray by the sink with a half glass of white wine.

TIPSY SAFFRON

And here, neighbour, here's a cup of charneco.

Second Neighbour – Henry VI, part 2

She pours the red wine into the white wine and drinks them both.

INT. FAMILY ROOM - DAY

Saffron's family is trying to watch television when she bursts in, dressed as a Roman Soldier and exclaims...

SAFFRON (ROMAN SOLDIER)

Room, ho! Tell Antony, Brutus is ta'en.

Second Soldier, Antony's Army – Julius Caesar

...and dashes back out.

INT. LOBBY/RECEPTION AREA - DAY

Saffron is a harried Receptionist at a law firm or corporate offices. She is in the middle of a phone call, but calls out to passing executives to pick up their phone messages:

SAFFRON (RECEPTIONIST)

Madam, the young gentleman of the Count Orsino's is returned: I could hardly entreat him back: he attends your ladyship's pleasure.

Olivia's Servant – Twelfth Night

Monsieur Parolles, my lord calls for you.

Page – All's Well That Ends Well

Jack Cade! Jack Cade!

Rebel Soldier – Henry VI, part 2

Gentlemen, my master Antonio is at his house, and desires to speak with you both.

Antonio's Servant – Merchant of Venice

(into phone)

My lord, Prince Pericles is fled.

Messenger – Pericles

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Saffron as Roman Centurion confronts Housemate as he comes out of the bathroom.

SAFFRON (CENTURION)

Stand!

First Soldier – Julius Caesar

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Centurion confronts Offspring who is just sitting there.

SAFFRON (CENTURION)

Stand!

Second Soldier – Julius Caesar

Confused Offspring stands up, I guess?

INT. BACK DOOR - DAY

Centurion confronts the Dog.

SAFFRON (CENTURION)

Stand!

Third Soldier – Julius Caesar

Stand!!

Thieves – Henry V

The Dog only knows "sit" and "stay".

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Saffron in seductive nightwear, has brought someone breakfast-in-bed.

SAFFRON

The morn is fair. Good morrow, general.

Captain – Julius Caesar

I will attend upon your lordship's leisure.

Papal Legate – Henry VI, part 1

The seduction is interrupted by her CELL PHONE.

SAFFRON

(on phone)

Doth my lord call?

Philemon - Pericles

He stays upon your will.

Second Attendant – Antony & Cleopatra

I will, my lord. (she hangs up and resumes) Come on, sirrah; off with your doublet quickly.

Beadle – Henry VI, part 2

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Saffron as Servant enters, covers her eyes.

SAFFRON (SERVANT)

Madam, the Lady Valeria is come to visit you.

Gentlewoman - Coriolanus

ANGLE ON: Lady Saffron, fully clothed, admiring herself in the mirror.

SAFFRON (MADAM)
She shall not need; we'll meet her in the field.

Sir John – Henry VI, part 3

EXT. A FIELD - DAY

Saffron as Lady Valeria, waits alone in a field for the others to show up.

SAFFRON (LADY VALERIA)
I doubt not but his friends will fly to us.

Herbert – Richard III

ANGLE ON: Her Attendants standing nearby.

SAFFRON (FIRST ATTENDANT)
Fair one, I think not so.

Third Lord – All's Well That Ends Well

ANGLE ON: Lady Valeria sees someone running toward them.

SAFFRON (LADY VALERIA)
How now, how now! what's the matter?

Warwick – Henry V

ANGLE ON: Saffron as Messenger, out of breath from running all the way across this field.

SAFFRON (MESSENGER)
Sir Thomas Lovel and Lord Marquis Dorset,
'Tis said, my liege, in Yorkshire are in arms.
Yet this good comfort bring I to your grace,
The Breton navy is dispersed by tempest:
Richmond, in Yorkshire, sent out a boat
Unto the shore, to ask those on the banks
If they were his assistants, yea or no;
Who answer'd him, they came from
Buckingham.
Upon his party: he, mistrusting them,
Hoisted sail and made away for Brittany.

Fourth Messenger – Richard III

SAFFRON (LADY VALERIA)
 We cannot be here and there too. Cheerly,
 boys, be brisk awhile; and the longer liver take
 all.

Potpan – Romeo & Juliet

She exits across the field.

ANGLE ON: Most of the Attendants curtsy and obey.

SAFFRON (SECOND ATTENDANT)
 Madam, I will.

Porter – Henry VI, part 1

SAFFRON (SNARKY ATTENDANT)
 Madam, I go with all convenient speed.

Balthazar – Merchant of Venice

SAFFRON (FIRST ATTENDANT)
 Come back: what mean you?

Gentleman – Henry VIII

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

Saffron as Clown walks by carrying a ridiculously large
 STUFFED ANIMAL.

SAFFRON (CLOWN)
 This will I carry to Rome.

First Roman – Coriolanus

Saffron as Second Clown walks by with an even more ridiculous
 stuffed animal.

SAFFRON (SECOND CLOWN)
 And I this.

Second Roman – Coriolanus

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Drunk Saffron staggers into the living room with an empty
 wine glass. Her Housemate is having a BEER and trying to
 watch the game.

DRUNK SAFFRON
 And here's a pot of good double beer,
 neighbour: drink, and fear not your man.

Third Neighbour – Henry VI, part 2

She drinks his beer.

Hey! HOUSEMATE

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Saffron frolics in a field in a makeshift FAT SUIT made of pillows.

FAT SUIT SAFFRON
 My heart is ten times lighter than my looks.

Surrey – Richard III

ANGLE ON: Snarky Attendant.

SNARKY ATTENDANT
 Ay, or a stomach.
 (snickers at her own joke)

Second Gaoler – Cymbeline

Fat Suit Saffron glares at her.

INT. HALLWAY / LIVING ROOM - DAY

Saffron, in seductive nightwear, her hands covered in BLOOD, rushes out of the bedroom and into the living room, where the family is trying to watch television.

SAFFRON
 All lost! to prayers, to prayers! all lost!

Mariners – The Tempest

She kneels to pray in the middle of the living room:

SAFFRON
 Heaven, from thy endless goodness, send
 prosperous life, long, and ever happy, to the
 high and mighty princess of England,
 Elizabeth!

Garter – Henry VIII

ANGLE ON: Snarky Attendant is sitting on the couch with the others.

SNARKY ATTENDANT

Pray heaven it be not full of knight again.

(snickers at her own joke)

Second Servant – Merry Wives of Windsor

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Exasperated Saffron is masking up and putting on gloves, as she prepares to leave the house to run an errand that somebody else was supposed to have taken care of already. Her family is trying to have lunch.

SAFFRON

I go, my lord.

Servant – Troilus & Cressida

In that, and all things, will we show our duty.

Cornelius - Hamlet

She exits in a passive aggressive huff.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Saffron as Richard III (or Marc Antony or some character that she has spent way too much time thinking about) sees a funeral in progress.

SAFFRON

O, my dear lord, lo, where your son is borne!

Talbot's Servant – Henry VI, part I

Saffron rushes over to the gravesite. She feels she should say a few words.

SAFFRON

Faith, I know not what to say.

Third Musician – Romeo & Juliet

He has done nobly, and cannot go without any honest man's voice.

Sixth Citizen - Coriolanus

ANGLE ON: Irritated Priest (also Saffron)

SAFFRON (PRIEST)
My lord, stand back, and let the coffin pass.

Gentleman – Richard III

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The family is still having lunch, when Saffron returns with the Darth Vader action figure. She un.masks and tosses it on the table.

SAFFRON
Here's Romeo's man; we found him in the churchyard.

Second Watchman – Romeo & Juliet

EXT. NEAR SOME TREES - DAY

Saffron as Forensic Botanist, examines a giant MAPLE LEAF with a magnifying glass, as her Offspring looks on, wondering where this is going.

SAFFRON (BOTANIST)
Good leave, good Philip.

Gurney – King John

Offspring groans.

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Saffron frantically scratches a Lottery scratch-off, while her Offspring looks on.

SAFFRON
A prize! A prize!

Second Pirate – Pericles

She reacts disappointed to a losing ticket.

SAFFRON
A murrain on't! I took this for silver.

Third Roman – Coriolanus

INT. LIVING ROOM - GAME DAY

Saffron and her Family are watching the football game.
Saffron in Denver Broncos super-fan garb screams at the TV:

SAFFRON
More rushes, more rushes!

First Strewer – Henry IV, part 2

INT. OFFSPRING'S ROOM - DAY

Saffron runs in wearing a stylish chapeau and carrying a
RIDICULOUS HAT.

SAFFRON
Here is the cap your worship did bespeak.

Haberdasher – Taming of the Shrew

ANGLE ON: Offspring is also wearing a ridiculous hat.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Saffron is reheating some leftovers in the microwave.

SAFFRON
'Twill be two o'clock ere they come from the
coronation. Dispatch, dispatch.

Third Strewer – Henry IV, part 2

The microwave goes off! Saffron reacts, horrified:

SAFFRON
It hath struck.

Page – Henry VIII

INT. PLAYROOM - DAY

Saffron is playing with the action figures. She does all the
voices.

CLOSE ON: Luke Skywalker chatting with Darth Vader.

SAFFRON (LUKE) (V.O.)
Ay, noble father, if our words will serve.

Edward – Henry VI, part 2

SAFFRON (DARTH) (V.O.)
Foreknowing that the truth will fall out so.

Peter of Pomfret – King John

PAN OVER TO: My Little Pony action figure.

SAFFRON (PONY) (V.O.)
Ay, boy, ready.

Anthony – Romeo & Juliet

KEEP PANNING TO: Jesus Christ action figure chatting with RGB action figure.

SAFFRON (JESUS) (V.O.)
Why, sir, a carpenter.

First Commoner – Julius Caesar

SAFFRON (RGB) (V.O.)
Religion groans at it.

Third Stranger – Timon of Athens

INT. STUDY - NIGHT

It looks like a normal home office, but an oil lamp has been added to make it old-timey. Saffron is on the phone:

SAFFRON
And so will I and write home for it straight.

Second Gentleman – Henry VI, part 2

She hangs up the phone and grabs a sheet of parchment and a QUILL PEN and scribbles an urgent letter:

SAFFRON
"Therefore let him be consul: the gods give him
joy, and make him good friend to the people!"

Seventh Citizen – Coriolanus II.3

"We hope to find you our friend; and therefore
give you our voices heartily."

Fifth Citizen – Coriolanus II.3

INT. DINING ROOM - NEXT DAY

Offspring is trying to do homework. Saffron the Spy takes a seat at the table and surreptitiously slides over a paper.

SAFFRON

Here is the number of the slaughter'd French.

Herald – Henry V

My lord hath sent you this note; and by me this further charge, that you swerve not from the smallest article of it, neither in time, matter, or other circumstance. Good morrow; for, as I take it, it is almost day.

Messenger – Measure for Measure

She exits.

EXT. FONT PORCH / FRONT YARD / NEIGHBOR'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

Drunk Saffron, on the porch, calls out to her NEIGHBOR(s) in their driveway.

DRUNK SAFFRON

(pointing at their house)

Sir, yonder is your place.

Marshal - Pericles

Come, neighbour: the boy shall lead our horses down the hill; we'll walk afoot awhile, and ease our legs.

Traveler – Henry IV, part 1

Neighbor(s) react as if no one told them about any of this.

INT. BACK DOOR - DAY

Saffron is holding the door for the Dog, who doesn't want to go out. She uses her speech to persuade it:

SAFFRON

He met the duke in the street, sir, of whom he hath taken a solemn leave: his lordship will next morning for France. The duke hath offered him letters of commendations to the king.

Messenger – All's Well That Ends Well

Dog still doesn't want to go out.

INT. KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - DAY

Saffron's family is having coffee/doing homework, when she bursts into the room in a panic:

SAFFRON
Arm, my good Lord! O, we are all surprised!

Second Scottish Messenger – Edward III

She grabs a KNIFE off the counter...

SAFFRON
Here, my mad boys, have at ye.

Taborer – Two Noble Kinsmen

...and dashes back out! The family should probably be concerned, but this has been going on for some time now.

EXT. ROOF - DAY

Somehow, Saffron the Sentry has gotten up onto the roof of her house and is patrolling the parapets.

SAFFRON (FIRST SENTRY)
Sound trumpet! A trumpet sounds.

Second Captain – King Lear

SAFFRON (SECOND SENTRY)
The Trojan trumpets sound the like, my lord.

Myrmidons – Troilus & Cressida

SAFFRON (THIRD SENTRY)
The trumpets have sounded twice.

Second Strewer – Henry IV, part 2

INT. LOBBY/RECEPTION AREA - DAY

Saffron the Receptionist answers the phone:

SAFFRON (RECEPTIONIST)
My lord?

Taurus – Antony and Cleopatra

It is, my lord.

Lord – Much Ado About Nothing

I will, my lord.

'Tis true, my lord, he did.

Gaoler – Comedy of Errors

Ay.

Third Captain – King Lear

Nor I.

Second Senator – Cymbeline

It shall be done.

Second Soldier – Coriolanus

Soldiers – Macbeth

She hangs up the phone and dials another number...

INT. FAMILY ROOM – DAY

Saffron's family is trying to watch TV. She makes a grand entrance and stands between them and the television.

SAFFRON (HERALD)

It is Othello's pleasure, our noble and valiant general, that, upon certain tidings now arrived, importing the mere perdition of the Turkish fleet, every man put himself into triumph; some to dance, some to make bonfires, each man to what sport and revels his addiction leads him: for, besides these beneficial news, it is the celebration of his nuptial. So much was his pleasure should be proclaimed. All offices are open, and there is full liberty of feasting from this present hour of five till the bell have told eleven. Heaven bless the isle of Cyprus and our noble general Othello!

Herald – Othello

Her family has learned by now that the correct response is to applaud politely. Saffron is pleased.

INT. HOME OFFICE – DAY

Saffron in her original costume, sits back down, having proven her point.

SAFFRON
Stating this for the universe's
response: I am ready to act again.
(in character, one last
time)
And cursed be he that will not second it.

Third Lord - Pericles

We hear the (O.S) Dog barking to go outside.

SAFFRON
Anon, anon.

Ostler - Henry IV, part I

She leaves to let the dog out.

FADE TO BLACK.

ROLL END CREDITS

AFTER CREDITS,
VIDEO POPS BACK
ON:

INT. BACK DOOR - DAY

Saffron, no longer in costume, is holding the door for the Dog. But now the Dog can't decide if it still wants to go outside.

SAFFRON
(points into the yard:)
Out! Out, damn Spot!

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END