

INT. TROUSERS MEOWSERS MEGACOASTER

ASH

Bob the DJ... it was you!

PAUL

Me?? You think I kidnapped Ralph?

ASH

Please take your mask off.

PAUL

I'd prefer not t--
Hey! Give that back!

ASH

Everyone, this is Paul.

PAUL

I'm not Paul! I'm Bob!

DAVINA

Oh my God! It's you!

SIMONE

Hey, your face is on the noticeboard.

DAVINA

Yeah it is. Because he's banned from
Mockery!

PAUL

No I--

DAVINA

What the hell are you doing here,
Paul?? Have you been Bob the DJ this
whole time?? You sneaky snake! I
should call the police! You're in
violation of a restraining order!

PAUL

Nonononono, please don't call the
police! I'm sorry, I'm sorry! Please!
I just really needed this DJ
contract! There are very few weddings
at this time of year! And it's not
like I was trying to break into the
manor again!

ASH

Except you were. The vampires said a
man in a mask tried to gain access.

PAUL

Uh! Er! Uh! That could've been anyone!

ASH

And not to mention Walter offered you access to the manor via the tunnels, in exchange for DJ-ing privileges.

PAUL

No he didn't!

WALTER

Yes I did.

PAUL

Ok! Yes! He did. But I said no because I'm a man of integrity.

WALTER

He said he didn't trust me not to use it against him.

DAVINA

Snakes recognise snakes, it seems! So you're looking for access to the Manor, are ya? Looking for dirt, is that it?

PAUL

If there's no dirt to be found, Davina, you've nothing to worry about, have you! But then again, innocent people don't have big stupid padlocks on their filing cabinets!

DAVINA

So YOU'RE the one who messed up my office! Who stole my keys!

WALTER

Oh, I thought that was just me.

GROG

Nah, that was me.

DAVINA

What?? Did three of you steal my keys??

PAUL

I don't appreciate being lumped in with these two! I'm not some petty thief. I'm not just a DJ either.

(MORE)

PAUL (cont'd)

I'm a journalist. And a damn good one at that. And yes, I'm guilty... of being able to smell a story from a mile away. And this one's been wafting up my nostrils for years! A story so smelly that local television will come BEGGING for my services!

ASH

Sounds like a motive to me.

PAUL

Oh! Er, no, that's not, uh, that's not what I meant--

DAVINA

You kidnapped Ralph cos you thought he'd spill the beans under duress, is that it?

RALPH

Ohhh! Yeah! Maybe I should've mentioned this before, but the kidnapper only ever asked questions about *Mockery*. About the kind of jobs I used to do for Jenkins. Most of it was way off the mark, but whoever it was had figured out we were using the lorries to smuggle stuff out of Dunkelschloss--

DAVINA

Yeah, maybe shush now, love. OK?

RALPH

I didn't tell him anything, Davina. I didn't answer a single question!

PAUL

Yeah nobody ever does! *Mockery* has 'em in a chokehold!

ASH

Oh yes? Do tell.

PAUL

What? Nothing. I didn't mean... you can't prove anything! I didn't kidnap him!
My alibi is rock-solid - I was DJ-ing in front of hundreds of people all bloody night.

(MORE)

PAUL (cont'd)
Except for one fifteen minute break,
and somehow, I don't think that's
enough time to kidnap someone, is it?
No! Case closed, your honour! Eh?
Yeah, put that in your pipe and smoke
it!

DAVINA
Shut up, Paul. So annoying.

ASH
Y'know what Bette taught me, Paul?
Look for the lies and contradictions
and things out of place and time.
Davina, could you read something out
loud, please? Here. It's the contract
between Mockery and Airwaves.

DAVINA
Why do you have this? Did you take
this from my desk?

ASH
Uh...

DAVINA
Alright, never mind. This bit?

ASH
Yep.

DAVINA
So Dave Herbert is to work Wednesdays
and Fridays, and Bob Hancock is to
work Tuesdays, Thursdays and
Saturdays.

ASH
Nurse Debbie, this photo of you in
front of the Heart of Darkness. What
day was this?

DEBBIE
Why, the day your friend went
missing. Thursday.

ASH
Bob's day to work.

PAUL
Correct. And I was indeed working my
contracted hours and DJ-ing in front
of hundreds of people, who all saw me
DJ-ing and not kidnapping anyone.

ASH

Jennifer, you're in this photo, getting a Khyber Fastpass. THIS Khyber Fastpass, which was issued at 10.47pm.

DAVINA

That's when Ralph was getting kidnapped. That puts you in the clear, Jennifer.

JENNIFER

Durr. Obviously.

RALPH

Ten to eleven, aye, that's roughly when I received the distress call on my walkie-talkie.

PAUL

At which point, I was DJ-ing in front of hundreds of people.

ASH

I thought you said you were on break at that time.

PAUL

OK, so I was on my 15 minute break.

ASH

And look who else is in this photo: a man in a green boilersuit.

PAUL

Let me see. Yep. That's Dave.

ASH

Why would Dave be in Mockery on his day off?

PAUL

Uh. Enjoying the park? Duh!

DAVINA

Why would he be wearing his work clothes on his day off?

PAUL

Because it's a cool outfit?

ASH

But he's not wearing the mask, he's carrying it.

(MORE)

ASH (cont'd)

Like he doesn't want to wear it. Like it's not his choice. Why didn't he leave it at home if he was just going to the park to have a nice time on his day off?

PAUL

Dunno. I'm not his keeper.

ASH

OK.

Davina, who here doesn't have a walkie-talkie?

DAVINA

Well, that'd be Paul, Nurse Debbie obviously, you Ash, and Jennifer, and Owen.

OWEN

How utterly ridiculous.

DAVINA

Ohhh I know why you're asking this! A walkie-talkie was stolen from Baba Yaga's!

RALPH

And the kidnapper needed a walkie-talkie to do his fake distress call! But the kidnapper would only bother to steal a walkie-talkie... because he didn't already have one.

DAVINA

Unless it was a coincidence. Things get stolen all the time.

PAUL

Yep. Co-inky-dinky.

ASH

No, it wasn't a coincidence. Because that walkie-talkie was used for something else that evening too. A prank call.

WALTER

You mean... that report of smooth yoghurt in the Village?

ASH

Yep. Whoever planned to use the tunnels to move Ralph knew that you also used the tunnels, and that you might get in the way. So they made sure you were elsewhere at the critical time.

DAVINA

So that narrows the suspect list down to Paul, Nurse Debbie, Ash, Jennifer, and Owen.

ASH

Well it wasn't me.

PAUL

Are we sure about that!

DAVINA

Shut up, Paul. What else you got, Ash?

ASH

On the night Ralph went missing, the podium dancers said this -

CLICK. WHIRRR.

SEFFIE

Last night, we had to dance to *five* of the same songs *twice*!

ASH

Do you often repeat songs on the same night, Paul?

PAUL

If the crowd are loving it, why not?

RALPH

Ohhh I've got it! I know what happened!

ASH

Take the floor, Ralph.

RALPH

Right. So. Dave replaced Paul - I hope I'm getting these names right! -
(MORE)

RALPH (cont'd)

Dave replaced Paul during the break.
Dave didn't know what songs Bob...
sorry, Paul... had already played, so
he repeated some of them without
realising!

PAUL

Don't be daft.

SIMONE

Yeah, that's what I think happened
too!
I bet you told him you felt sick, and
that he had to come in on his day off
and take over!

PAUL

Uh! Nyoo? I'm sorry, that's just
nonsense.

SIMONE

I think I've figured out the
timeline. Do you mind, Ash?

ASH

Please. Go ahead, Simone.

SIMONE

So. Earlier in the day, Paul comes
into the park - wearing his mask so
management don't see him. He uses his
stolen keys to unlock the tunnel
hatches at Dreamland and Roswell.

RALPH

And he knows about the tunnels
because he worked here years ago,
when they were in use.

SIMONE

That evening, just before his shift,
Paul uses the Dreamland payphone to
call Dave the DJ, to make sure that
he's ready to take over DJ duties at
11pm that night.
As usual, Paul goes on his break at
10.45pm. At 10.47, Dave is walking
from the staff entrance towards
Dreamland. At the same time, Paul is
sneaking into the tunnels and using
his stolen walkie-talkie to contact
Ralph. He tells him to come quick.
Then he waits in the dark for Ralph
to arrive --

RALPH

-- at the junction where the Roswell and Dreamland tunnels meet. Ten minutes later, I'm having a stinking bag dragged over my head. Meanwhile, this Dave fella has put his frog mask on and gone into the DJ booth. But everyone thinks it's Paul, back from his break.

SIMONE

Giving Paul a cast-iron alibi.

ASH

And Dave is shy, very shy, so Paul knows he'll just leave immediately afterwards, without talking to anyone. He fires him the next day, just in case.

PAUL

Absolute rubbish. Can't prove it. Agh! Ooh!

ASH

I imagine you hurt your ribs when you attacked Ralph, ey Paul? And where did you get the knock-out chemical you soaked the bag in? From your equine dental surgeon girlfriend perhaps?

DAVINA

He's got a girlfriend? Takes all sorts.

SIMONE

But why did you target *Ralph*, though? Why not one of the other Mockery old-timers?

ASH

Larph.

DAVINA

It's nothing to laugh about, Ash. A man was kidnapped!

ASH

No, L A R P H.

RALPH

Oh yeah. That's my name, cunningly disguised. It's what I called myself back when I used to call in to Crime Time to confess my sins. It made me feel better to tell someone.

DAVINA

Ohhhh! And Paul worked out that you, Ralph, were Larph.

ASH

I mean, it's not hard, is it?

RALPH

You knew I knew things. You thought I'd talk. That you'd get your story.

DAVINA

Bit extreme though, isn't it?
Executing such an elaborate plan?

ASH

The actions of a desperate man.

DAVINA

A desperate, not-very-intelligent man. What were you gonna do once he'd talked? Kill him?

PAUL

No, of course not!

EVERYONE

Oooh he confessed!

PAUL

That wasn't a confession! Shut up! I didn't do it! But I'm sure whoever did would've just let him go. I'm sure whoever did it wishes they hadn't because they're not a ruthless criminal, and the whole thing was really quite upsetting for everyone.

RALPH

Mainly me. It was mainly upsetting for me.

PAUL

Oh my God, I just had a thought...
Dave kidnapped Ralph! Yeah! That makes sense.

(MORE)

PAUL (cont'd)
 Dammit, I should've done a more
 thorough vetting process during the
 interview stage! No doubt he's
 someone you upset in prison, Ralph.
 Well, good job I fired him. OK, case
 closed. Let's all go home.

BZZZZ

WALKIE TALKIE PARKER
 Everything OK, Davina?

DAVINA
 Yep, looks like he's not gonna cause
 any problems. Got in over his head, I
 reckon. What a wally. I'll bring him
 out.

PAUL
 Wh... what's going on?

DAVINA
 I had Parker and JJ wait outside the
 room with Senore Antonio, just in
 case.
 Let's go and have a quick chat in
 private, Paul.
 (whispers) Let's not involve the
 police, eh? Neither of us want that.

The rest of youse, thanks for your
 co-operation. Now back to work!

PAUL
 You can't do this.

DAVINA
 Come on, Paul.

PAUL
 Oh God!

DOOR CLOSES.

RALPH
 Is that it, then?

ASH
 Looks like it.

RALPH
 I'm starving. I haven't eaten in two
 days.

ASH
Bloody hell.

RALPH
Or been to the loo.

ASH
Let's go to the diner, then. You all
coming?
Oh, most of them left already.

SIMONE
So the tupperware food poisoning
puzzle had nothing to do with Ralph's
disappearance?

ASH
Nope.

SIMONE
I took ages designing that grid! What
a waste of time!

ASH
Well, trouble is, you never know
what's relevant and what's not...

END CREDITS