

Mockery Manor SEASON 3
Episode 1: Welcome to Claytonville
Written by Lindsay Sharman
Music and Sound Design by Laurence Owen

INT. MAGS AND BERNARD'S DIGS - NIGHT

Magenta TOSSES and TURNS, caught in a nightmare.

MAGENTA
(asleep) No no. Help him. He's going
to... he's going to fall...

Bernard WAKES.

BERNARD
Magenta? What's wrong?

MAGENTA
(asleep) Somebody help him...

BERNARD
Oh no, not again.
Wake up, sweetie. Wake up.

MAGENTA
Why are all just standing here?
Somebody has to do something.

INT. MAGENTA'S DREAM

A CROWD of people MURMUR and SHOUT as they watch a man
teeter on a precipice.

The CACTUS SONG plays in the background.

MAGENTA
Somebody do something!

AMERICAN WOMAN
Oh sweet mother Mary! What's he
doing??

BRITISH MAN
He's too near the edge!

MAGENTA
He's wobbling!

BRITISH MAN
What is he doing?!

A goat BLEATS.

MAGENTA
He's going to fall!

BERNARD
Magenta!

MAGENTA
Nooo!

BERNARD
Magenta, wake up!

INT. MAGS AND BERNARD'S DIGS

Magenta wakes.

MAGENTA
--ooh! He fell! Oh my God, he fell!

BERNARD
Shhhshhhshhh, sweetie, sweetie. It's
alright. Just a dream. Shhshhshh.

MAGENTA
Bernie? What time is it?

BERNARD
Just gone three in the morning. Shall
I get you some water?

MAGENTA
No, no, I'm fine. Thank you.

BERNARD
Was it the dream? The falling man?

MAGENTA
Yes. But there was more this time. He
was sharper, there was more detail.
Like a camera coming into focus.

BERNARD
Did you see his face?

MAGENTA
No. Never. He's too far away. Too
high up, on a cliff face I think. I
was in a crowd, a vast crowd of
people and we were all looking up at
him. At him. But this time,
Bernard... there was a goat.

BERNARD

A goat?

MAGENTA

He stumbled into it before he fell,
but the goat, it didn't move or make
a noise, it just stood there, frozen.

BERNARD

A frozen goat! Gosh. What could that
mean? Ooh, perhaps you're on the
horns of a dilemma or you're *frozen*
with indecision!

MAGENTA

No, no, no...

MOCKERY THEME.

BERNARD

Or maybe... hmmm, goats are stubborn
aren't they, so maybe if you dream of
goats, then it means--

MAGENTA

(interrupts) --the goat isn't
symbolic, Bernard. None of it is. It
isn't a dream. It's much more than
that.

BERNARD

But if it's not a dream, what is it?

MAGENTA

A premonition.

Mockery MUSIC turned up to 11.

MARGOT

Long Cat Media presents Mockery
Manor, season 3, episode 1...
Welcome to Claytonville.

INT. SUBURBAN LIVING ROOM 1996

'NAUGHTY SCAMPS' MUSIC. DOOR CREAK. MUFFLED GIGGLES.

DAD

Are you two still awake?

CHILDREN

Dad, we're too excited!

DAD

You'll be tired at Mockery Manor tomorrow. And it's bigger than ever, so you really do need to sleep.

CHILD 1

Daddy, tell us about the new expansion!

DAD

OK, OK.

CHILDREN

Yay!

DAD

Once upon a time, there was a wonderful place - Mockery Manor. Everyone loved it... but sometimes it felt lonely.

CHILDREN

Awwww!

DAD

The Manor longed for a companion, so they built a whole new park right next door and called it - Claytonville. And it was the...

SPARKLY MAGIC MORPHS INTO COWBOY MUSIC. Dad gets a cowboy accent.

COWBOY DAD

...rootenest tootenest place you ever did see! Yeehaw!
Hop onboard and take the brand new Mockery Railroad all the way to Claytonville! Toot toot!
In Claytonville, there are four cowboy towns to explore!
Lasso a goat in Varmint Valley...
...kiss your girl's best friend in Lovelorn Town...

KISS and SLAP

BETRAYED GIRL

Stop it, Terry.

COWBOY DAD

And in Cowboy Xmas Town, hop on down
to the Bluegrass Grotto to meet
Cowboy Santa!

SANTA

Ho! Ho! HOEDOWN!

COWBOY DAD

And are you brave enough to ride the
wildest ride in Claytonville? Look
out, it's the Four Spurs Mine Train!

ROLLERCOASTER NOISE.

CHILDREN

Yeehaw!

DAD

Are you sleepy now, kids?

CHILD 1

(sleepy) Yes daddy. I can't wait to
go to Mockery Manor. And
Claytonville.

DAD

Two parks in one, and only 19.99 for
a family of four. G'night kids.
Claytonville, at Mockery Manor.
Unofficially endorsed by country and
western star Clayton Woodrow the
Third.

INT. FOURSPURS CLAYTONVILLE THOROUGHFARE - DAY

The PARK SPEAKERS play JOLLY CLAYTONVILLE MUSIC.

We hear HAMMERING and SAWING, construction workers SHOUTING,
etc.

Up close, the sound of a PENCIL on PAPER as JJ makes a mark
on her clipboard.

JJ

OK. Animatronic number twelve. Cross
your fingers, Parker. And...

...CLICK as JJ depresses a button.

COWBOY ANIMATRONIC
 Hey there cowboy, welcome to
 Claytonville... (battery running out)
 I'm about to plaaaaay yooo...

JJ
 Oh my God, he sounds like he's having
 a stroke!

PARKER
 Oh flippin' heck. Not another one.

JJ
 We're opening tomorrow! We're not
 ready!

PARKER
 Shhh JJ!

JJ
 Christ, I need a cigarette. Why'd I
 pick now to quit?

PARKER
 It's just teething problems, that's
 all.

CLICK of walkie-talkie.

PARKER (cont'd)
 Harry, do you read me.

HARRY VO
 Mmhmm.

PARKER
 Hello mate. Can you send an
 electrician to Four Spurs to look at
 the Clayton animatronic? Over.

HARRY VO
 I'll see what I can do.

PARKER
 Alright mate, thanks Harry! Over and
 out.
 God he's cool. Did you hear that?
 'I'll see what I can do.' So cool.

JJ
 Someone's got a crush.

PARKER

Just a healthy appreciation for a fellow sharp shootin', straight talkin' manly man, that's all.

JJ

Is that why he's living with us? So you two can wrestle manfully in front of a log fire?

PARKER

Don't you like him or something??

JJ

No, he's fine. But we just don't know anything about him, do we?

PARKER

You're so suspicious of everyone!

JJ

No I'm not! But we didn't even hire Harry; he's George's man. And now he's all over both parks, and I'm sharing a bathroom with him.

PARKER

He's only staying with us for a few weeks, until he finds somewhere. Not his fault his last place got flooded. Don't you like having some company in the Manor?

JJ

No.

PARKER

Ah, mate, you're turning into a hermit. What happened to fun-times JJ?

JJ

Nothing. I'm still fun.

PARKER

Yeah course you are.

JJ SPLUTTERS.

PARKER (cont'd)

Anyway, what's next on the list?

FLIP of a page turning.

JJ
 (annoyed sigh) Four Spurs music stage. Then the saloon, the prison, and after that the... (disturbed) oh. The mine train.

PARKER
 Nice one. Let's ride, cowgirl!

JJ
 (depressed) Yeehaw.

They WALK.

PARKER
 Ahhh! I've always had a really good feeling about this place. D'ya remember when George came to us with the plans for Claytonville? And I was like, 'Yes, yes! There's gold in them thar hills!?' This place is gonna bring Mockery back to life, I know it! (beat) Don't you think?

JJ
 Oh yeah, deffo.

Beat.

PARKER
 You seem a bit distracted, mate. (beat) JJ?

JJ
 Mmmmm. What? Sorry, what was the question?

PARKER
 Are you OK, JJ?

JJ
 Yeah! Yeah, totally. Just... really want a cigarette.

In the middle distance, the RATTLE of the MINE TRAIN. It TOOTS as it goes.

PARKER
 (excited) Look look, they're testing the mine train! Corrrr! Looks pukka!

GOAT BAHHS.

JJ
(dread) Yeah. Pukka.

FOREMAN
(calls) Scaffolding off the jail
house!

CLANGS as scaffolding comes down.

PARKER
I'll give 'em a little boost.
(megaphone) Doing a great job,
everyone; Claytonville looks
fantastic! We're on the final stretch
now, the finishing line's in sight!
And don't forget, overtime tonight
pays triple.

WORKER
(distant) Triple peanuts is still
peanuts, you wanker.

PARKER
(megaphone) That's the spirit!
(aside) What did he say?

JJ
Oh my God, Parker, look at the Four
Spurs stage! Why's it so *high*? I
thought it was gonna be, I dunno,
like, just a little platform in front
of the mine train??

PARKER
George changed it. He says we need to
keep the audience away from Clayton
when he performs tomorrow night.
Bloody hell, it is a bit high, innit.

JJ
A bit tall?? It's fifteen feet off
the ground!

PARKER
Yeah but, apparently Clayton's got
quite a determined stalker, so the
more distance, the better.

JJ
It doesn't even look level. Look.
It's leaning!

PARKER
Oh yeah.
(MORE)

PARKER (cont'd)
 (megaphone) Guys, is the stage a bit
 wonky?

JJ
 We've got an American performing on
 that stage. A rich and famous one.
 You know what they're like. This is a
 lawsuit waiting to happen.

PARKER
 (megaphone, worried) Or a death-trap.
 (realises) --ahhh shit.
 (megaphone) The stage looks great but
 could we maybe get a spirit level on
 that bad boy?

WORKER
 (calls) Break time! Down tools!

The SAWING, HAMMERING STOPS.

PARKER
 Lads?

WORKER 2
 Kettle's boiled!

Everyone CHEERS.

WORKER
 (calls) We've run out of pink wafers!

The workers 'AWWW!'

JJ
 OK, that's it. We'll have to delay
 the opening.

PARKER
 (chuckles) OK.

JJ
 I'm serious, Parker!

PARKER
 Don't be daft! We'd lose a fortune.
 Do you know how many people have
 bought tickets for the opening
 concert tomorrow night?

JJ
 But Parker we--

PARKER

--And lest we forget, Clayton is somewhere over the Atlantic heading straight for us. What do we say when he gets here, 'sorry mate, do you mind hanging out while we finish the park? Free slushies for you and your entourage while you wait.'

JJ

But nothing is working properly! The Mockery Express Train breaks down more than British Rail!

PARKER

Food's better though.

JJ

Bronco the Flying Buffalo looks like we've just painted over a Dumbo ride - which we have.

PARKER

That doesn't matter.

JJ

The Bayou Swamp experience animatronics--

PARKER

(interrupts) --JJ, JJ, it is fine. Theme parks are never finished on opening day. You gotta trust me on this. As long as they see Clayton performing on that - admittedly slightly wonky stage - they'll be happy, they'll have had a show!

JJ

Is the show 'let's watch Clayton Woodrow plummet to his death'? Because yeah, that's quite a show!

PARKER

Ssshhh, JJ keep your voice down. It's bad for morale. What's wrong with you? Is this nicotime withdrawal?

JJ

No, it's not! It's the correct amount of concern. Where the hell is George in all this? He's in charge of Claytonville, for Chrissake! He should be here!

PARKER

He is, he's here somewhere. And he might be in charge, babes, but this place belongs to Mockery. So we've got final say.

JJ

Yes! Exactly! So if anything goes wrong, it's our neck on the chopping block.

PARKER

(sighs) Yeah. No, you're right.

JJ

Exactly so... (beat) You're agreeing with me?

PARKER

Of course I am. The last thing I want is anyone getting hurt. So I will personally make sure Clayton's stage is level before the concert. I'll stay here all night if I have to...

The BLIP of JJ's walkie talkie.

PARKER (cont'd)

What are you doing?

JJ

Calling George. If we're working through the night, so is he.
(radio) Come in, George. It's JJ. I want a word, in person. Soon as possible please. Over.

GEORGE VO

My dear girl! I'm a little busy... but let me finish up here and I'll be right with you. Uno momento, por favor!

JJ

Where are you?

GEORGE VO

I'm in the Rodeo Ice Rink in Cowboy Xmas Town, and I'm afraid... we might have a problem.

JJ

Course we bloody do.

PARKER

JJ, be cool.

JJ

What exactly is the problem?

GEORGE VO

It's Cowboys On Ice. I'm watching the dress rehearsal right now, and I'm starting to think I might've allowed the director too much artistic freedom. The show is... how do I put this... it's a little outré.

JJ

Great. An entirely new problem. We'll be right there.

PARKER

Outre and out!
Haha. Little joke. Trying to lighten the atmos. What does outre mean?

JJ

I don't know. Let's find out.

INT. ICE RINK

DISCO MUSIC.

The Director shouts instructions. The distinctive sound of BLADES ON ICE.

DIRECTOR

Alright, and AXEL, two three, arabesque, two three, on one, JASPER, ON one. NO NO NO. Stop the music!

The music cuts abruptly.

DIRECTOR (cont'd)

Jasper, what are you doing? When the cowboy chorus grapevines, you should already be in the camel spin! GO AGAIN! FROM THE TOP! POSITIONS PLEASE.

GEORGE

Oh dear. Ohhhh my.

DIRECTOR

Do not fret, George, it'll be perfect by tomorrow.

(MORE)

DIRECTOR (cont'd)

You know what they say; (shouts) SHIT
AWFUL DRESS REHEARSAL, fabulous first
night.
START THE MUSIC!

MUSIC starts.

GEORGE

And they have to do this four times a
day all summer, will they manage??
It's so... vigorous.

DIRECTOR

(shouts) Ronaldo! You call that a fan
spiral?? DON'T LOOK AT ME, KEEP
GOING.

GEORGE

(without confidence) It'll be fine.
Won't it? Yes. I know it'll work. It
has to. I've sunk my life savings in
this.
I have total confidence in you all,
my dears. They said ice-skating
cowboys would never work, but... look
at them go.
Although I'm not sure about the
cowboy trousers.

DIRECTOR

They're called 'chaps'.

GEORGE

Yes. I didn't realise the 'chaps'
would be arseless.

DIRECTOR

Chaps are always arseless.

GEORGE

Yes but don't they normally go over
jeans? Otherwise there'd be chafing,
would there not? Regardless, this is
a family show, we need to get some
proper underpants--

He's interrupted by a DOOR SLAM. JJ and Parker WALK in.

JJ

(cold) George, can we have a word.

PARKER

Alright George.

GEORGE

My darlings, hello! Let's walk and talk. This way!
(to director) Excuse me a moment.

DIRECTOR

Mhmm. (shouts) Jasper! Your knees!

George ushers them away. They WALK.

PARKER

'ere! Those cowboys...

GEORGE

(forceful) This way! Let's talk in the foyer where it's quieter.

PARKER

I can see their bums!

JJ

Why can we see their bums??

GEORGE

This way!

DOOR OPENS, they walk through. Parker and JJ have a MUTTERED CONFAB.

PARKER

You saw that as well yeah? Their arses are hanging out. It's like the Chippendales.

JJ

You talk to him.

Door SLAMS.

GEORGE

So what can I help you with? You want a progress report? Harry's doing checks right now, once he's done, he can tell us what state we're in.

JJ

We already know. We've been doing our own checks. And it looks like there's quite a lot left to do.

GEORGE

Ah, yes, it might appear that way but... erm...

PARKER

(soothing) As long as everything's in place for the big Clayton concert, yeah?

GEORGE

Oh it is! Priority number one. Let me think...

He starts ticking things off on his fingers. Fast, efficient. He's on top of the concert, if nothing else.

GEORGE (cont'd)

The Four Spurs stage is almost complete--

JJ

Yeah, we saw the stage, about that--

GEORGE

--The sound system's in place. The bars are fully stocked. Oh, and you'll both like this: we've established a VIP area on the flat roof of the Four Spurs Saloon. Excellent view of the stage for Clayton's entourage to watch the show. And us too, of course! And finally, the security detail arrived today. Speaking of which, Clayton and co are staying in the Manor, are they not?

JJ

Yeah they are.

GEORGE

They'll need to secure the bedrooms, the windows, fire escapes, etcetera. I'll send them over now. Is the Manor open?

PARKER

No, it's locked. Hang on, I'll give you my keys. Here you go.

JINGLE OF KEYS.

GEORGE

Thank you.

JJ

Do we need security in the Manor?

GEORGE

Of course! Clayton's extremely famous. His fans will do anything to meet their idol. And of course there's the... ermmm...

JJ

What is it?

GEORGE

Oh, nothing, really. It's just... I spoke to Clayton's manager before they got on the plane. It seems Clayton's been receiving threatening letters for several months now. They received one just a few days ago, and the author said they were coming to the concert tomorrow night.

PARKER

Oh, what!

JJ

Are you kidding me?? Why didn't someone tell us about this?

GEORGE

I only just found out myself.

PARKER

Is it Clayton's stalker? The one who broke into his house last year?

GEORGE

No. The letters all have a British postmark.

PARKER

Brilliant. Homegrown nutter, then.

GEORGE

Anyway! No need to fret! That's what the security team are for.

JJ

I haven't even briefed them yet.

GEORGE

Oh you don't need to worry about that! That's my job! But I'll be sure to introduce you before the concert. You'll be most reassured, they're very impressive. Especially the chap in charge of the whole she-bang.

(MORE)

GEORGE (cont'd)
 He's ex-police, you know: used to be
 a detective for the murder squad.

A SCREAM of a door. FOOTSTEPS approach...

PARKER
 Wow. That's impressive.

JJ
 Yeah. When can I meet him, and what's
 his name?

FENWICK
 DI John Fenwick.

Door SLAMS behind him.

FENWICK (cont'd)
 That's my name.

JJ
 Oh my God.

FENWICK
 Hello JJ. Hello Parker. Fancy seeing
 you two again.

COWBOY MUSIC. RATTLESNAKE.

AD BREAK.

INT. ICE RINK FOYER.

JJ
 (croak) You!

GEORGE
 Oh happy day! Well met, good
 detective!

PARKER
 Allo mate.

GEORGE
 We were just talking about you.

FENWICK
 I heard.

JJ
 What are you doing here?

GEORGE

Sounds like you three know each other already!

PARKER

Do we?

FENWICK

We certainly do. Although it's been a while, hasn't it kids?

JJ

Seven years.

PARKER

Sorry mate, have we met?

JJ

Parker! (gritted teeth) It's the detective who investigated Graham's murder. He interviewed us in the Manor, remember?

PARKER

Ohhhhhh flippin' heck.

GEORGE

A murder? Oooh! How exciting! Who's Graham?

FENWICK

JJ's old lover.

GEORGE

Goodness!

JJ

I wouldn't say 'lover'. I'm not French.

GEORGE

And he was murdered? Oh, how awful for you, my dear! How dreadful.

JJ

It's OK. Long time ago.

FENWICK

And yet ever-present. Must be hard for you, working here, where it all happened? And Parker, too: the murderer turned out to be your good friend, didn't he?

PARKER

Well... I wouldn't say Matty was a
'good friend'...

JJ

It's fine. We're fine. Aren't we,
Parker?

Parker makes a STRANGULATED noise.

FENWICK

Parker looks a bit peaky.

PARKER

No. No. Just a bit surprised you're
here, that's all.

FENWICK

All flooding back, is it?

JJ

What do you want, detective? What are
you doing here?

FENWICK

Oh, I'm sorry, I thought George had
already covered that. I'm head of
security for the concert tomorrow.

JJ

You? That's a bit weird, isn't it?

FENWICK

I suppose it might seem a little
peculiar. I imagine JJ and Parker
thought they'd never see me again.

GEORGE

Oh, right, yes, I see, yes.

FENWICK

But what they don't know is that I'm
a life-long fan of Clayton Woodrow.
Ensuring his safety, well, that's
something of a dream job for me.

GEORGE

The detective's almost as devoted as
I am. We met through the Clayton fan
club.

JJ

The Clayton fan club?

FENWICK

Proud member since 1976.

PARKER

Wait wait. Lemme get this straight: you're not a detective anymore? You left the police? Not that it matters or anything...

FENWICK

That's right, Parker. I left a few years back. I became somewhat jaded, y'see. Disillusioned. Decided to work for myself, instead.

GEORGE

Disillusioned? By what? Do tell!

FENWICK

The usual. Corruption. Bent coppers. *Backhanders*. You wouldn't believe what people get away with if they have the money...

GEORGE

How awful!

FENWICK

It is what it is.

GEORGE

Sounds like you're best off out of it, Mr Fenwick.

FENWICK

Indeed. But I confess: I do miss it sometimes. Catching the scent. Following the clues. Uncovering *secrets*.
(cheerful) So tell me! What are you Mockery reprobates up to nowadays? You've both been promoted, I see. How nice. And what about Margot, she still in charge? And her partner, what was he called, again? The one who had ex Secret Service written all over him? Tweedy. Built like a stoat. Tim! That's it. Timothy Jenkins. How is the old chap?

PARKER

Jenkins died a few years ago. In Germany.

FENWICK

Did he really. A violent end, was it? What a terrible shame. Margot must be devastated. I shall give her my condolences when I see her.

JJ

You won't. She's on a round-the-world cruise.

GEORGE

Oooh! Lucky girl!

FENWICK

A luxury cruise. Well. I imagine that takes the edge off the grief.

JJ

Parker, we should go, lots to do...

PARKER

Yeah.

FENWICK

Eyyy wait wait, where's the other one? The bad twin. Or is she the good one? She around? She was a lively one, wasn't she? Very self-assured. Some might say 'rude and obnoxious, borderline obstructive'. Name, name, started with a B..?

JJ

Bette. She's not here.

GEORGE

She'll be back tomorrow. She's on a case. Bette's a detective too!

FENWICK

What.

GEORGE

Or a what-do-you-call-it. A private eye? That's it, isn't it? Her office is in the Manor house, isn't it, JJ?

JJ

Yes. I'm surprised you didn't know, detective.

FENWICK

Why would I? Do you think I've been checking up on you?

CRACKLE of radio.

HARRY VO

(radio) Miss Armstrong. Parker. Come in. Parker. Anyone from the Mockery side. Come in.

FENWICK

You better answer that. Sounds important.

PARKER

Um. Yeah. Yeah. Definitely.

JJ

Parker, I think we should take this outside.

GEORGE

Oh? Do you need me to come?

PARKER

No, no, it's fine. We'll deal with it. Scuse us, gents.

They HURRY off

GEORGE

Alright.
(calls) I'll catch up with you both later!

Music swells.

FENWICK

As will I. As will I.

EXT. COWBOY XMAS TOWN

Parker and JJ POWER-WALK through the park, thoroughly freaked out.

JJ

Oh my God oh my God oh my God. Why can't the past just stay buried!? What is he doing here?? He must be after us!

PARKER

Nah nah, that's mad.

HARRY VO

(radio) Miss Armstrong? Parker?

JJ

You think it's a coincidence?? He knows, Parker! He knows we lied to him! He's been thinking about it for seven years and now he wants us to know he knows!

PARKER

No, no it can't be.

JJ

The way he looked at me just now... like he was peering into my soul.

PARKER

That's probably just his face. Like resting bitch face, but resting detective face.

HARRY VO

(radio) JJ. Parker. Hello?

PARKER

Lemme get rid of Harry.
(into radio) Harry, we're a bit busy right now. Can we talk later? Over.

HARRY VO

You're gonna wanna hear this. I'll be real quick.

PARKER

Unghhh! For Gods sake. Just let him talk, I'll turn the volume down.
(into radio) OK, go ahead.

HARRY VO

OK. So. I came over...

Harry's speech is faded out.

PARKER

JJ. What do we do about Fenwick?

JJ

I don't know. But we never did anything wrong, did we, so--

PARKER

Except lie to the police during a murder investigation.

JJ

It was the right thing to do. Wasn't it??

PARKER

It was the easier thing to do. I dunno about right.

JJ

Everything would've fallen apart if we'd told the truth. Margot in jail, Mockery closed...

PARKER

'ere. JJ. If Fenwick's a massive Clayton fan and he's local, why *wouldn't* he take this job? Maybe he's not after us.

JJ

D'you think so?

PARKER

I dunno!
Oh Jesus, look at the time. There's a truck-load of hotdogs and root-beer arriving in Varmint Valley in ten minutes, one of us has to be there.

JJ

Yeah. OK. Let's go.

PARKER

Nah, I'll do it. I need to walk. I need to think. You talk to Harry.

JJ

Wait, Parker! Shouldn't we figure out what we're gonna do?

PARKER

We don't need to do anything. Except keep away from Detective Fenwick.

JJ

He'll notice we're avoiding him. He'll know we're hiding something.

PARKER

Wait, wait, hang on. It doesn't matter, he's only here for the concert.

JJ

Oh yeah! He'll be gone in two days!

PARKER

Yeah. We're panicking over nothing.

JJ

Do you really think so?

PARKER

I've gotta go. I'll see you back at the Manor for dinner, yeah?

JJ

(worried) Yeah.

Parker starts to leave. As he retreats--

PARKER

Smile, JJ. It's all pukka, mate! Right?

JJ

(dark) Right.

Parker WALKS off. JJ turns the walkie talkie up.

HARRY VO

They were last seen heading into the woods. Security guard said they were... **'creepy murder fans'**.

JJ

'Murder fans'??
Hello, Harry? What's this about 'murder fans'?

HARRY VO

Were you not listening?

JJ

Yeah. I was just... tell me what 'murder fans' means.

HARRY VO

That's what the security guard called 'em. He said people camp in the woods around Mockery sometimes, and I was like, 'OK, that's pretty normal.' But then he said they pitch their tents right next to the cabin where some dude was murdered in '89.

JJ

(mutters) Graham. His name was Graham. Why are we talking about Graham again??

HARRY VO

Huh?

JJ

Are they causing trouble? The creepy murder fans in the woods.

HARRY VO

I guess not. But it's been a dry summer, they might start a fire they can't control. I can kick 'em out?

JJ

No. It's OK. I'll speak to them.

HARRY VO

On your own? Is that safe?

JJ

They're not violent, they're just... gross. And I know the guy in charge. He might listen to me.

HARRY VO

Someone's in charge of the creepy murder fans? So what's it, like, a cult or something?

JJ

More like a tour group. The guy who runs it, he worked here in '89. I'm pretty sure it was him who started the rumour.

HARRY VO

What rumour?

JJ

That the ghost of Graham sometimes appears in the spot he was murdered. God. Anyway. I'll deal with it. Anything else I need to worry about?

HARRY VO

Hey. Why worry. Shit's gonna happen anyway. You looking forward to the concert tomorrow night?

JJ

I think I'm gonna skip it. Not really a fan of Clayton, to be honest.

HARRY VO

Neither am I, sweetheart. Neither am I.

INT. FOUR SPURS SALOON

It's VERY QUIET. The empty saloon is holding its breath.

The SALOON DOORS are pushed open. They CREAK on their hinges.

GEORGE

(softly calls) Hello? Helloooo? Just me!
Hello! It's George! Anyone here?

He WALKS a few more STEPS.

Suddenly, the JUKE BOX comes on - STRIDENTLY CHEERFUL BLUEGRASS. George YELPS in surprise.

GEORGE (cont'd)

Oh! Oh, my heart!
(angry) Who turned that on??

As if by magic, Magenta appears.

MAGENTA

The Saloon ghost! Wooooo!
Hello George!

Magenta WALKS towards him.

GEORGE

It's you.

MAGENTA

I think you bought a faulty juke box, George. It keeps turning itself on... we're very alike in that respect.

GEORGE

(faint) Oh, very good, haha.

She JABS a button.

MAGENTA

Look, I'm pressing the button but it won't turn off! Stupid thing.

(MORE)

MAGENTA (cont'd)

The only language it understands is violence--

With a GRUNT, Magenta THUMPS the juke box and it SHUTS OFF.

MAGENTA (cont'd)

There. Peace and quiet.

GEORGE

Madame Magenta, how wonderful to see you. I hoped you'd be here. How are you? Are you settling into the Four Spurs Saloon?

MAGENTA

Oh yes, thank you! Bernard and I were just in the back parlour, running through the Seance Experience.

GEORGE

All on track for the opening day?

MAGENTA

Oh yes! It's a wonderful show. Very spooky, a little bit profound. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll shit your pants. The audience will love it, my darling. Although they might lose their fillings; the magnets are VERY strong.

George LAUGHS.

MAGENTA (cont'd)

No I'm serious George, the magnets are ridiculous.

GEORGE

Oh.

MAGENTA

I think we'll have to ban anyone with metal prosthetics... or pace makers! Oh God! I don't want anyone dropping dead on my watch, thank you very much.

GEORGE

Oh I don't know, it might be good publicity: the medium who makes her own ghosts! Haha. No, you're right, of course. I'll arrange for a sign - 'no metal in the seance room'.

MAGENTA

Thank you.
(seductive) So is that all, Mr Osman?
Or did you come here for something
else?

GEORGE

Yes. I did. Do you have time for a...
a session?

MAGENTA

For my favourite client? There's
always time.

GEORGE

What about Bernard?

MAGENTA

Bernard's fiddling with the magnets,
he won't disturb us.
Why so nervous, Mr Osman? It's not
like we haven't done this many times
before. Come, come over here... come
to me...

SCRAPES out a chair for George to sit in.

MAGENTA (cont'd)

(not seductive) ...and sit yourself
down. Good boy. There you go. Now
what do you want this time? Tarot?
Runes? Scrying? Bibliomancy? Tic tac
toe? Let's do the Tarot.

GEORGE

Ah yes, good choice.

Magenta SHUFFLES cards.

MAGENTA

Any particular subjects you wish to
explore? How the grand opening will
go? Or just a general reading?

GEORGE

Erm, I do have a specific question,
actually.

MAGENTA

Go ahead, my dear. I'll shuffle the
cards, you ask your question.

GEORGE

It's about Clayton. Clayton Woodrow the Third.

MAGENTA

Oooh, Clayton! Oh I can't wait to meet him! When's he arriving?

GEORGE

Tomorrow.

MAGENTA

Oooh! With his wife? What is she, the fourth one now? And about thirty years younger too! She could have had anyone, why'd she marry that old fossil! Although I must admit, he's still got something hasn't he, and I don't just mean bags of money--

GEORGE

(interrupts) May I... sorry... may I ask my question?

MAGENTA

I'm not stopping you. Go on.

GEORGE

I would like to know... if... if what I heard about him is true.

MAGENTA

Oh? And what did you hear?

GEORGE

I don't really want to say it out loud.

MAGENTA

Oh go on. The spirits provide a more accurate reading when you provide as much detail as possible.

GEORGE

I just can't.

MAGENTA

Yes you can. Dig deep.

GEORGE

(sighs) Something of this nature... I fear it will go with me to the grave. My lips are sealed.

MAGENTA

Suit yourself.
Shall we begin? Close your eyes,
George. Bring the question to the
forefront of your mind. And project
it outwards, into the ether.

GEORGE

Yes.

Magenta FLIPS SEVERAL cards onto the table, rather heavily.

MAGENTA

You can mouth it, if it helps.
Y'know. Mouth the question. Form the
words. Yes, just like that.
Now. On the table in front of you, I
have splayed the pack. Don't open
your eyes. I want you to reach
forward and touch one of the cards.

GEORGE

...this one.

MAGENTA

Are you sure?

GEORGE

Yes.

MAGENTA

Good. Open your eyes.
Let's turn it over and see what we
have...

FLIP

MAGENTA (cont'd)

Shit.

GEORGE

The Tower? That's a bad one, isn't
it?

MAGENTA

What makes you think that? The
flames? Or maybe the figure
plummeting down from on high?

GEORGE

No need to be sarcastic.

MAGENTA

(sighs) I'm sorry, George. It's just... of all the cards, I wish you hadn't picked this one...

(whispers) ...the falling man.

SWELL of COWBOY MUSIC.

End of episode 1.

COWBOY version of the Mockery theme tune.

CREDITS

Mockery Manor is written by Lindsay Sharman and Directed by Lindsay Sharman and Laurence Owen.

Music, sound design and editing by Laurence Owen

Hayley Evenett was JJ,
Laurence Owen was Parker, the Cowboys on Ice Director and additional voices,
Karim Kronfli was George,
John Henry Falle was Detective Fenwick,
Luke Capasso was Harry,
and Madame Magenta and Bernard were themselves.

Mockery Manor is supported by Arts Council England National Lottery Project Grants, and our wonderful patrons on Ko-fi. If you'd like to support Mockery and help me and Lindsay keep making podcasts, tap the link in the show notes of this episode, or go to Long Cat Media dot com.

Music fades out.

We get to hear what Harry was saying when Parker faded him out earlier...

PARKER

(into radio) Harry, we're a bit busy right now. Can we talk later? Over.

HARRY VO

You're gonna wanna hear this. I'll be real quick.

PARKER

Unghhh! Just let him talk, I'll turn
the volume down.
(into radio) OK, go ahead.

HARRY VO

OK. So. I came over to the Mockery
side to talk with the chief engineer
about the railroad. Figure out what's
going on, why it keeps breaking down.
But that's not what I wanted to talk
to you about...

I was about to come back to
Claytonville when one of the Mockery
security guards stopped me. Ahh, what
was his name? Gordon or Gary... I
can't remember, British dude names
are unmemorable. Why is everyone
called Mark?

So anyway, Gordon or Gary said he'd
followed a group of youngsters
through the park who were acting
weird, but he lost them because he's
so old. You really need to recruit
some new blood.

They were last seen headed into the
woods. Security guard said they
were... **'creepy murder fans'?**

CLICK.