

Mockery Manor SEASON 3
Episode 8
'The Three Muskahounds'
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Cowboy MUSIC

THE PROSPECTOR

Previously on Mockery Manor:
With JJ in police custody, Bette knows the clock is ticking to clear her name. Magenta reveals that George moved the date of the Clayton concert to a night with no moon. And finally, over a fine whiskey, Harry and Bobby D lock horns - and Bobby collapses. And that's you all caught up. Y'all enjoy the episode now!

MOCKERY THEME MUSIC.

MARGOT

Long Cat Media presents Mockery Manor, season 3, episode 8: The Three Muskahounds.

INT. BACK PARLOUR, FOUR SPURS SALOON

Parker, JJ and Bette sit around the seance table.

Exorcist-like MUSIC plays.

BETTE

The question has always been, who hated Clay enough to murder him? And of all people, why frame JJ?

PARKER

Where's that music coming from?

BETTE

I know, it's really distracting.

PARKER

Maybe setting up camp in a seance room was a bad idea.

JJ

It's doing my head in. How do we turn it off?

PARKER

I dunno, I can't find the switch.
One sec. Let me ask the gruesome
twosome.

Parker opens the DOOR.

PARKER (cont'd)

(calls) Magenta! Bernard! Some help
here please!

JJ

Bette, can you stop pacing like that?

BETTE

Sorry sis, no-can-do. Mild cardio
helps me think. Mild cardio and Bogan
Bay. And snacking, snacking also
helps.

Bernard arrives.

BERNARD

Hello! What's the matter?

PARKER

Alright mate. Can you turn this music
off? It just came on out of nowhere.

BERNARD

That's because it's on a timer. Some
of the effects Magenta triggers
herself. Others just...

BETTE

Of course. A *timer*. Yesss.

PARKER

Oh great. Does that mean we can't
turn it off?

BERNARD

No no, you can. See here, just behind
this curtain...

CLICK. Music off.

BERNARD (cont'd)

There!

PARKER

Thanks.

BERNARD

Anything else I can help you with?
Can I get you anything from the
saloon?

PARKER

You don't have to suck up to me cos
I'm the boss, Bernard.

BERNARD

I just like to help, that's all.

BETTE

In that case, can you bring in the
specials board and some chalk? We can
use it to keep notes while we work.

BERNARD

Specials board! Of course, yes.

JJ

And some chicken wings.

BETTE

Oh that's a good idea. Three
portions, please. Extra spicy.

BERNARD

Righty-ho!

DOOR CLOSES behind Bernard.

BETTE

Right. Come on, chaps. Let's get to
work. We don't have long. The cops'll
come back for JJ as soon as they have
enough evidence to charge her.

PARKER

Maybe they won't get enough evidence?

BETTE

When they find out who was on the
mine train CCTV that night, and
Walter tells them he witnessed JJ
burning her clothes, it's game over,
I'm afraid.

JJ

I'm doomed. Doomed.

BETTE

Unless...

PARKER

Unless what?

BETTE

We figure out who actually did it, gather sufficient evidence, and - ideally - extract a confession.

PARKER

Oh blimey, that's quite a lot, innit.

JJ

Or we could just have a drink and resign ourselves to the inevitable.

BETTE

JJ! No!

JJ

Maybe I deserve it. Maybe it's my penance.

PARKER

Deserve it? What, going to prison for murder??

JJ

Yeah.

BETTE / PARKER

Don't be silly! Are you having a laugh?? You didn't do it! You're innocent!

JJ

But how many times have I broken the law? And not just 'stealing a packet of gum' breaking-the-law. First, I lied to the police so Margot didn't lose the park--

BETTE

We all did that.

JJ

--Then I worked for the Russian mafia.

PARKER

Yeah, but only briefly. And you were VERY low down in the organisation.

JJ

I found a body in Tokyo and didn't report it. When Koschei burned down, we lied to the police AGAIN, said we didn't know anything.

PARKER

Yeah but it's all about context, innit.

JJ

(quiet) And what about the drugs.

Beat.

BETTE

Drugs?

JJ

Come on, Bette. Why'd you think I smuggled a Vermeer? Because I was thinking straight? To fund my Care Bear collection?

BETTE

(confused) You have a Care Bear collection?

PARKER

JJ, were you... I... I didn't know you were struggling..?

JJ

It's OK. Don't get dramatic. I'm fine now. Sort of.
I go to meetings on Tuesdays. They help.

PARKER

Oh mate.

BETTE

(stunned) You mean, like, meetings for *drug addiction*? JJ! Why didn't you tell me?

JJ

I dunno. It's embarrassing.

PARKER

Oh mate. No, you shouldn't be embarrassed...

BETTE

Oh, sis!

JJ

I've made it awkward.

PARKER / BETTE

No, no, it's not awkward!

BETTE

I'm just taking it in, that's all.

PARKER

Yeah, yeah. I think it's really brave you told us.

BETTE

Yeah, really brave. To struggle through all of that on your own?

PARKER

And mate, you've really turned things around the last few years.

BETTE

You really have. You really have! Gosh, JJ, I was already proud of you, but now I'm like... crikey!

PARKER

Yeah! It's, like... wow. I mean, it's like... shit! Shit me!

JJ

Don't! Please, stop! You don't have to pretend. You know it's just a matter of time before I screw up again. I'll take everything I've built and I'll rip it all down, just because. Because that's what I'm like.

BETTE

Well. If you do, we'll just... build it up again. All three of us.

PARKER

Yeah, yeah. We're the three Muskehounds! (sings) One for all and all for one, Muskehounds are always ready!

BETTE

Read the room, Parker.

PARKER

Sorry.

JJ

I thought it was time you both knew about it--

BETTE

Of course. I'm so glad you've opened up.

JJ

--Because when the police find out I'm an addict, they'll use it against me.

Beat.

PARKER

(quiet) Shit.

BETTE

(panic) No. No they won't.

PARKER

That is the kind of thing they do.

BETTE

But they won't find out. So they can't use it against her, because they won't know. How would they find out?

JJ

Paul. He'll tell them.

PARKER

Who?

BETTE

Paul? The reporter?

JJ

He followed me to a meeting a couple of weeks ago. Came in the room. Saw what it was. The smirk on his face...

PARKER

Hang on, Paul? That smug twat who used to work here?

BETTE

I knew he was sniffing around.
Dammit, I should've warned you both!
Dammit!

PARKER

I'm gonna kill him.

DOOR SLAMS OPEN. Trolley wheeled in, SQUEAKING, CLANKING.

BERNARD

Party time!
Howdy pardners! Could someone hold
the door, I've put everything on a
trolley.
Chalk board and chicken wings, and I
took the liberty of adding a few
bowls of cheesy chips to your order,
and an array of drinks: gin, vodka,
rum, cola, tonic water, and some

He BLOWS A PARTY HORN.

BERNARD (cont'd)

...party horns. And party hats!

BETTE

Does it look like we're having a
party?

BERNARD

Not without a party hat! Let's pop it
on your... head, no, OK, no party
hats.
Oh, before I go, one more thing...

PARKER

(sighs) Yes?

BERNARD

Is anyone wearing a digital watch?
Because the magnets in this room,
they have been known to interfere
with, or indeed, break...

PARKER

Oh bloody hell! My casio, it's
stopped!

JJ

Mine too!

BERNARD

Sorry! The magnets are VERY strong.

PARKER

Ohhh, I really like this watch!

BERNARD

Oh, and one more thing before I go, I should tell you; something's happened to... oh, what's his name again...

PARKER

Yeah alright mate. We'll come get you if we need anything else. (mutters)
It's a limited edition Casio, as well.

Parker starts shuffling Bernard out of the room.

BERNARD

But wait... Rod? Roddy? The old chap, American, Mockery Manor. Roddy, is that it?

PARKER

--Alright thank you. Closing the door now.

SLAM.

BERNARD

(muffled, through the door) Bobby, that's it, Bobby's been poisoned! Hello?

PARKER

Right, back to work. Project: keep JJ out of pokey! If we can run a theme park, we can find a murderer. Yeah? Yeah!

JJ

(sighs) Sure.

PARKER

Bette? Hello? You with us?

BETTE

(vague) Hmmm? Sorry, just thinking about *time*...

PARKER

Cos of the magnets? Is your watch screwed too?

BETTE

(mutters) No, I mean the timing... on the night of the murder... and how long it took to--

PARKER

Oh oh, I think I know what you're gonna say! Cos I've been thinking... the person who turned the lights off can't be the person who injected Clay, can it? Cos of the timing! Hear me out, hear me out: so the lights went out at, err...

BETTE

9.15.

PARKER

Yeah, 9.15, and they came back on ten minutes later.

BETTE

(vague, off-hand) No no. Fifteen minutes. Not ten. And Clayton was seen on the tracks at 9.32pm.

PARKER

Oh right. Yeah! So the Mockery railroad would have gone down when the lights went off, yeah? So whoever turned the electricity off would've had to get from the control room in the manor, where all the switches are, to the mine train in Claytonville, *on foot*. And they'd have to, like, go through the woods and all the way around the lake. And that takes *at least twenty minutes!*

BETTE

Well actually it took me thirty two minutes from the control room to the mine train platform. I tested it. But I'm not terribly fast, so I got Harry to do it too--

PARKER

(surprise) Harry? Are you two... friends?

BETTE

--mmm, he's very fit - very fast. It took him sixteen minutes and 26 seconds.

PARKER

Oh. Sixteen minutes. Right. Yeah!
Exactly! Sixteen minutes is too long.
So unless the killer's Speedy
Gonzalez, whoever turned the lights
off couldn't have got to the mine
train in time to kill Clayton. Which
means... there's two of 'em! One on
the lights, one in the mine train!
Eh?? Eh??

BETTE

That was my initial thought as well.

PARKER

Yessss, I knew I was onto something!

JJ

Two murderers? Great.

PARKER

'ere, I've had a few other ideas an'
all. Where's that chalk gone. Let's
draw up a suspect list. First up...

CHALK on blackboard.

PARKER (cont'd)

Kirsteen! It's always the wife,
innit, it's always the wife! Clay
would've come off stage in the dark
and been like, 'oh hello love, is
that you? What are you doing here?'
and then she injects him, and he's
like 'erk! I did not expect that,
which is why I allowed you to get
close enough to stick a needle in
me!' Eh see, it makes sense, dunnit!
Who do you think she teamed up with?

BETTE

(thoughtful) I think...

PARKER

Yeah?

BETTE

I think... I need a chicken wing.
Pass me the bucket, Parker. Oh, and a
glass of tonic water, if you please.

PARKER

Erm. Right.

(MORE)

PARKER (cont'd)
Tonic water? Really? Gross.
JJ, do you want anything?

JJ
No thanks.

GLUG GLUG.

PARKER
So what do you think of my theory?
Here you go. Room temperature tonic
water.

BETTE
(thoughtful) Did you know, the
quinine in tonic water glows bright
blue under UV light? Just like the
luminous paint in this room.
Theoretically, you could use tonic
water to create a rather spooky
effect.

PARKER
Err. OK?

BETTE
JJ, what time did the letter say you
should be at the mine train that
night?

JJ
Oh. Erm. Nine pm. But I got there a
few minutes early.

PARKER
(mutters) What's tonic water got to
do with anything?

BETTE
And exactly where were you supposed
to wait for Mrs Wainscoat?

JJ
By the singing cactus mural. That's
about halfway up Four Spurs mountain.

BETTE
Is that close to the ride platform?

JJ
Not close enough to see it but close
enough to... hear things.

BETTE

JJ! Did you hear something that night??

JJ

Yeah. Footsteps. Voices.

PARKER

Shit! Mate!

BETTE

Tell me right now - in order - everything you saw and heard that night.

JJ

It's nothing important, otherwise I would have said something earlier. But OK. So I got there at, like, 8.45, thereabouts. After, I dunno, twenty minutes, I was thinking should I just leave?

Ghostly MEMORY DOOR SLAM

JJ (cont'd)

And then I heard a door slamming...

PAST JJ

Hello?

JJ

...and footsteps.

PAST JJ

Hello?

JJ

They were coming from the direction of the ride platform. For a moment, I thought maybe Mrs Wainscoat had come through the staff entrance. But then the lights went out.

Ghostly BUZZ of electricity flaring and dying.

PAST JJ GASPS.

JJ (cont'd)

Pitch black. It was horrible. And that constant electric hum, the one you don't notice until it stops...

(MORE)

JJ (cont'd)
 when that went off, it left this
 vacuum. I could hear the concert
 crowd, but it felt far off.

Ghostly DISTANT CONCERT CROWD

JJ (cont'd)
 It was like I was hanging in space.
 And then I heard a door again...

SLAM

JJ (cont'd)
 ...footsteps...
 ...and Clay's voice.

Ghostly distant CLAY VOICE

PARKER
 No way.

JJ
 But he was too far away, I couldn't
 make out anything he was saying.

PARKER
 So you heard him come off the Four
 Spurs stage. And talk to someone? You
 heard him talk to the murderer?!

BETTE
 Did you hear them? The other person?

JJ
 I don't know, I wasn't really paying
 attention, I was too freaked out by
 the lights going off. So I... I just
 left. Felt along the wall, got to the
 entrance, and just... legged it.

PARKER
 So you didn't hear Clay being
 syringed?

JJ
 No.

BETTE
 Sounds like you left just before it
 happened. Hmm. I wonder if the letter
 writer expected you to stay put?
 JJ, did you keep the letter? I looked
 in your room but I couldn't find it.

JJ

It's on my bedside table.

BETTE

It's not. Someone's taken it.

JJ

You think someone's been in my room?

BETTE

I do. And I don't want you going back there. You'll sleep in my room tonight.

JJ

OK.

BETTE

JJ, what was it about the letter that made you believe it really was from Graham's wife?

JJ

Um. There was a lot of stuff in it that no-one else would've known about. How he loved his Peugeot, how proud he was of his karaoke skills. Now I think about it, that's a really weird thing to write in a letter to your husband's mistress. But how many people would've known all that about Graham?

BETTE

Good question.

JJ

She said she couldn't move on until she knew how the affair started. She said she needed to know if he'd really loved me. She said she was in pain, that only I could help her.

PARKER

Maaaate.

BETTE

Whoever wrote it certainly knew how to push your buttons.

PARKER

But how would Kirsteen know about Graham?

BETTE
Dammit, I'll have to go talk to her.

PARKER
Kirsteen?

BETTE
No, Mrs Wainscoat.

JJ
She won't want to see you.

BETTE
No doubt.
Parker... I have a question for you,
now.

PARKER
Yes boss. Fire away.

BETTE
When Abilene entered the VIP lounge
at 8.15pm, how did everyone react?

PARKER
Oh, they went bananas.

GHOSTLY VOICES AS HE REMEMBERS.

PARKER (cont'd)
Absolute mayhem.

PAST ABILENE
It's you!

PARKER
Abilene headed straight for Kirsteen,
and Kirsteen literally screamed and
tried to hide behind the bar.

PAST KIRSTEEN
Oh God!

PARKER
Bobby's a bit short-sighted I think,
cos he was going 'what's going on?
Who's that?'

PAST BOBBY
Anna Lou! Anna Lou!

PARKER

Anna Lou was quite impressive, actually; while I radio-ed security, she grabbed Abilene's arm and started frog-marching her off the roof. Then I stepped in, I was like, 'it's OK Anna Lou, /I'll deal with it.

PAST PARKER

/I'll deal with it.

PARKER

...I told Abilene that Fenwick would take her to see Clay, but we needed to go wait downstairs until he arrived. Felt guilty lying to her, but it worked. She was putty in my hands after that. Think I handled it pretty well, really.

BETTE

What did you talk about while you waited for Fenwick?

PARKER

Oh, this and that. She did most of the talking. Told me about her and Clay, how they were gonna be a family, and they was gonna break it to Kirsteen that very night. Just mad bollocks, really. Although... there was one thing...

BETTE

Yes?

PARKER

I didn't think much about it at the time. She was saying how well Clay looked after her. How he'd invited her over for the concert, and he'd arranged everything: plane tickets, hotel, concert ticket, and a pass to the VIP lounge. I was like, 'yeah, yeah, course', and she must've realised I didn't believe her, cos she showed it to me.

BETTE

The VIP pass?

PARKER

That's the thing. It wasn't a VIP pass. *No-one* had a VIP pass, because we never made any. Abilene had a Mockery security pass, like what we give to managers.

JJ

How'd she get hold of a manager's pass?

PARKER

I dunno! I assumed she'd found it or something.

BETTE

These passes, they allow access to restricted areas?

PARKER

Yeah. And that's how she got past the security guard on the saloon door. He thought she was a manager.

JJ

But didn't it have someone else's photo on it?

PARKER

No. It was blank, like, freshly minted. I should've realised, that ain't right.

JJ

How did she even know where the lounge was? We didn't tell *anyone* where Clay's entourage were gonna be that night. It would've been a nightmare if the fans found out.

PARKER

Yeah!

BETTE

Dammit. If I'd known, I could've asked her about that this morning.

PARKER

You mean Abilene? You saw her today?

BETTE

I did... in the Shotgun Wedding Chapel. Which it turns out, she was sleeping in.

PARKER

What??

BETTE

Yep. Before I left for the police station this morning...

Into Bette's memory - the CHAPEL MUSIC (Winds of Heaven) starts to play.

BETTE (cont'd)

...I popped into a few Claytonville landmarks. Including the chapel...

INT. LOVELORN CHAPEL - EARLY MORNING

There is a LOUD CLOCK TICKING in the chapel. It BONGS FIVE TIMES.

DOOR OPENS.

FOOTSTEPS down the central aisle.

The interrupted SNORE of someone waking.

Bette GASPS.

ABILENE

I'm sorry!

BETTE

Jesus Mary and Joseph!

ABILENE

I hope I didn't scare you.

BETTE

It's OK! It's OK. Just a bit of a shock, that's all. Seeing you splayed out in front of the pulpit like that... I thought something terrible had happened.

ABILENE

Was I sleeping with my eyes open?

BETTE

Yes. You were.

ABILENE

Mmm, I do that a lot. When my kids were little, they'd find me napping on the couch, and my son would get so upset with me. 'Momma! Are you alive??'

BETTE

Well that's... horrible.

Abilene STRETCHES.

ABILENE

What time is it?

BETTE

Twenty to five.

ABILENE

In the morning? Golly! Up with the worms!

BETTE

How long have you been sleeping in the chapel?

ABILENE

Only one night. I got kicked out of my hotel.

BETTE

What for?

ABILENE

They wanted me to pay the bill. Heartless bastards. I told them Clay was supposed to pay but he couldn't because he was dead, and they just didn't care. There I am, just lost my damn fiance, and they're trying to squeeze money out of me. Would you believe they even threatened to call the cops? So I turned tail and got the hell out of dodge.

BETTE

And you came here? Why?

ABILENE

I wanted to be with Clay. Where I could hear his voice. I can feel him all around me here.

BETTE

Oh dear. Abilene, is there anyone I can call? You said you have a son?

ABILENE

Mmm. Brian. That's his name. After his pa, of course.

BETTE

His pa?

ABILENE

Clayton.

BETTE

(dubious) Right.

ABILENE

My poor baby. Breaks my heart they'll never meet. He looks just like him, y'know. Do you want to see a picture?

BETTE

Uh, sure.

ABILENE

I keep a couple in my purse.
(mutters)

She RIFLES thru her purse. ZIP.

BETTE

Abilene, while I have you here... can I just ask, on the night of the fall - and I'm so sorry to bring this up, I know it must be terribly painful - but did you try to return to the park after Detective Fenwick took you back to your hotel?

ABILENE

Hmm? Oh. No, I fell asleep. Here they are. He's about six years old in this one.

BETTE

(polite) Oh yes... very cute...

ABILENE

And this one, this is from when he graduated high school. See? Isn't he handsome?

(MORE)

ABILENE (cont'd)

And this is me and Bri a couple of years ago, at his 25th birthday party.

BETTE

(polite) Yes, that's very...
(shocked) ...holy shit!

ABILENE

What?

BETTE

Your son. He's... he's the spitting image of Clay!

ABILENE

I know. That's what I said. I told you he was.

BETTE

(splutters) Yes but I didn't think you were... Sorry, can I see that photo again?
(to self) Look at that. Crikey.

ABILENE

You're not the first to react like that.

BETTE

My God. The cleft chin, the eyes, the jaw... it's a young Clay.

ABILENE

People say to Brian all the time, 'you should do a Clayton tribute act'. Brian gets real mad at that. 'I don't want anything to do with that man!'

BETTE

Oh? Is Brian angry with his... father?

ABILENE

He thinks Clay's leading me on.
(sigh) And Clay never acknowledged his kids, of course. Not in public anyway.
Ohhh I wish Brian would just... live and let live. He's so dang stubborn. I'll keep trying though.

(MORE)

ABILENE (cont'd)

I'll get through to him one of these days, and he'll turn to me and he'll say, "hell, I'm the son of a genius! Thank you for the gift, momma!"

BETTE

Well. This rather clarifies a few things.
Abilene, if you have nowhere to stay, would you like to...

Snap-cut to--

INT. BACK PARLOUR, FOUR SPURS SALOON

PARKER

--You invited her to stay in the manor??

JJ

Bette! Why'd you do that??

BETTE

It's just for a few days until her flight leaves. She's not moving in.

PARKER

I don't believe this.

JJ

So she's in the manor right now? With Kirsteen!?

BETTE

Don't worry, I put her in the old servant's quarters. Miles away from the others. And I told her she couldn't go in the communal spaces.

PARKER

(sarcastic) Oh well, that's alright then! I'm sure she'll behave herself! The woman who broke into the VIP lounge and attacked Kirsteen!

BETTE

She didn't *attack* her! She just wanted to talk to her.

PARKER

Yeah, and Kirsteen was terrified! Abilene's under a restraining order, lest we forget!

JJ

You're gonna have to put her somewhere else, Bette. This isn't good.

PARKER

What were you thinking?

BETTE

Both of you, just chill out. I'm not an idiot; I've weighed up the risks. Besides, I asked a Mockery security guard to keep an eye on her.

PARKER

You took a security guard away from his normal duties?

BETTE

He's still working security, what's the problem?

PARKER

The problem is, this wasn't your call to make! You don't even work here! Oh this is typical. Typical high-handed, I-do-what-I-want Bette!

JJ

Guys, come on.

BETTE

(annoyed) Er, excuse me, you didn't even know Abilene was sleeping in the bloody park! She could've broken into the manor in the middle of the night if she wanted to!

JJ

Guys, stop it.

PARKER

Well, no need for her to break in anymore, seeing as you gave her the flipping keys!

JJ

(shouts) Both of you, stop it!

DOOR OPENS.

FENWICK

Hello hello. I could hear you lot in the saloon.

BETTE

Fenwick.

PARKER

Oh. Great.

JJ

Fenwick?? What's HE doing here?

PARKER

(still annoyed) He's Bette's new bestie, remember.

BETTE

Oh don't be childish.

JJ

I don't want him here.

FENWICK

Why-ever not? Not hiding something, are you?

BETTE

Alright, that's enough. Fenwick, what do you want?

FENWICK

Oh charming. Given how much I've compromised myself for your bleeding benefit, you could be a bit nicer.

BETTE

Sorry. We're all a bit tense right now.

FENWICK

Good job I bring good tidings, then.

BETTE

Good tidings? Yes please. What's happened?

FENWICK

Harry's been arrested.

JJ / PARKER / BETTE

What? No! Harry?? Arrested?

FENWICK

Real name Jacob Silverhorn.

PARKER

Jacob? You mean, Harry's not Harry?

JJ

It's a fake name??

BETTE

What's he been arrested for?

FENWICK

Poisoning Bobby McDaniels.

JJ

What??

PARKER

Bobby's been poisoned??

FENWICK

Yes. Few hours ago, he and Harry were enjoying a very fine whiskey when Bobby collapsed. Residue has been found at the bottom of his glass. We'll soon know what it was.

BETTE

Is he dead?

FENWICK

Not yet. He's in a coma.

PARKER

Bloody hell.

FENWICK

The good news - for you folks, anyway - is that he's moved into pole position for Clay's murder. Harry doesn't have an alibi for the time of Clay's fall. And it seems he has something of a history with the Woodrows. Several years ago, he was hired to dig up dirt on Clayton. While doing so, one could speculate that he also learned a thing or two about Bobby. Perhaps Harry attempted to blackmail Clay, and then Bobby, but when they refused to play ball... Harry was unable to contain his murderous rage.

BETTE

A syringe and poison are hardly weapons one would use in a rage.

JJ

Wait. Does this mean... they don't think I did it??

FENWICK

Mmmm. It might go that way.

PARKER

But that's... that's great! JJ, you're in the clear!

JJ

Oh thank God! Thank God! Ohhh! So relieved!

PARKER

(relieved) Gawd! What a rollercoaster. What a mad few days! Harry was the murderer all along! I can't believe it!

BETTE

(grim) Neither can I. Because that's not what happened.

PARKER / JJ

Eh?

BETTE

And Fenwick doesn't think so either. Do you?

FENWICK

Got my own suspicions.

JJ

Bette? Why don't you think Harry killed Clay?

BETTE

Because... oh, I don't know. It just doesn't sit right. I bet he didn't poison Bobby either.
(sighs) None of this adds up.

JJ

Or you don't want it to. Look at your face.

BETTE

I beg your pardon?

JJ

You look more concerned now your boyfriend's in trouble than when your sister was the prime suspect.

BETTE

JJ! That's not true!

PARKER

Boyfriend?

JJ

She's been sleeping with Harry. Ever since he arrived.

PARKER

She has?? You have?

BETTE

No, no, I haven't! OK, yes I have, but only a few time and it didn't mean anything. And it's got nothing to do with anything, anyway!

JJ

Doesn't it?

BETTE

No! He's not my boyfriend! But you are my sister!

JJ

Your pain-in-the-arse sister. Your loser sister. Maybe it'd be easier for you if I was behind bars.

BETTE

JJ, why are you saying that?

JJ

Because it's true.

PARKER

Mate, stop it! What's gotten into ya?? You think we don't care? That Bette doesn't care? When I told her the police had taken you in, she was frantic.

BETTE

I was.

PARKER

Neither of us even went to bed last night. Bette spent the whole night scouring the park for clues.

JJ

(feeling silly) Oh.

PARKER

Look at us, look at the bags under our eyes. We look awful. Bette's aged ten years!

BETTE

If I look concerned, sis, it's not because of Harry. It's because I don't think you're in the clear yet.

JJ / PARKER

You don't? Why?

BETTE

They'll still want to know why you were seen running from the mine train. And... they might think you and Harry were working together.

JJ

Working together? Oh God!

FENWICK

Hmmm. True.

PARKER

Oh shit, I didn't think of that!

BETTE

We still have work to do if we want to keep JJ out of trouble.

PARKER

Like what? What do we need to do?

BETTE

Go through the evidence again. Figure out the timeline. I'm so close, I can feel it, I just can't see it yet. The answers at my fingertips, if only I could...

PARKER

Tell us. Everything you're thinking, tell us. It might help. Three brains and all that.

FENWICK

Not including me in that count, then?

PARKER

(begrudging) Alright, four brains then.

BETTE

Actually, Fenwick, I think your skills are best employed elsewhere right now. I need to get some information from Mrs Wainscoat, but she almost certainly won't talk to me. Would you?

FENWICK

Mrs Wainscoat? You mean, Graham Wainscoat's widow? What do you need from her?

BETTE

We need to find out who she's been talking to about Graham's love of Peugeot's.

JJ

And karaoke. Don't forget the karaoke.

FENWICK

Right.

BETTE

Someone's been sniffing round her, asking questions. If she can point us towards whoever wrote that letter... I'll know who the murderer is.

FENWICK

Mmm. OK. I'll drop her a visit.

He WALKS to the door.

BETTE

Thank you Fenwick.
Oh, and one more thing. Tomorrow lunchtime, I want everyone to come here, to the parlour.

Mockery THEME.

FENWICK

Who do you mean by 'everyone'?

BETTE

Us four, the Americans, including Harry - if they release him by then. And George. Walter too. And Paul from GSPW.

PARKER

That's a weird bunch.

JJ

Bette, what are you planning?

BETTE

I need everyone in one room.

PARKER

Like Poirot?

BETTE

Yes Parker. Like Poirot.

FENWICK

Isn't that a little theatrical, Armstrong?

BETTE

Why do you think I became a detective?

FENWICK

(chuckles) You do keep things interesting, don't you?
Alright, I'll go see Mrs Wainscoat.

He OPENS door, walks through.

FENWICK (cont'd)

(calls) Catch you twats later.

JJ

Can't believe you're gonna do a Poirot.

PARKER

It'll be really embarrassing if you get the killer wrong, Bette.

BETTE

Oh God, it will, won't it.
Oh, we'll need Magenta and Bernard there, too. In fact, Parker, can you get them in here right now? There's something I need you all to do. Letters I need delivering.

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 Bette and JJ
Laurence Owen was Parker
Kristi Boulton was Abilene
John Henry Falle was Fenwick
and Bernard was himself.

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Music FADES.