

Mockery Manor SEASON 2
Episode 15, Part II
'The Haunted Masquerade'
Written by Lindsay Sharman
Music and Sound Design by Laurence Owen

THEME TUNE, punctuated by...

MARGOT V.O.
Long Cat Media presents Mockery Manor
Season 2, Episode 15: The Haunted
Masquerade, part II.

INT. CORRIDOR, KOSCHEI THE DEATHLESS

First section of this scene overlaps with the last few moments of the last scene from the previous episode.

An OMINOUS TICK TICK TICK...

BETTE
Guys! Come look at this!
What do you think it is?

JJ
Looks like an alarm clock.

BETTE
But look at the number. That's not
the time. And it's going down.

The TANNOY blares into life.

PARKER VO
It's a bomb! Get away from it! Run!
Run! Run! Get out of there!

BETTE
Is that Parker's voice??

PARKER VO
Get out of there, go now now ruuuun!

--EXPLOSION! But somewhat muffled, from the other side of the building.

They EXCLAIM.

BETTE
Was that an explosion??

GRETCHEN
I saw the walls shake!

JJ

Where did it come from?? Inside the ride??

BETTE

Was that *Parker* on the tannoy just before the--

GRETCHEN

The whole building might come down!

THOMAZ

Oh this is very bad.

GRETCHEN

Guys! That thing on the floor... is it...

JJ

It's another bomb! Run!

BETTE

No no, wait! Wait! It's OK, look! It's got nine minutes on the countdown!

GRETCHEN

Nine minutes?? We need to get out of here! But where do we go?

THOMAZ

We are trapped!

Everyone PANICS LOUDLY.

DAVINA

(shouts) Shut up everyone!

The HUBBUB comes to abrupt stop.

DAVINA

Who knows this place best? Quickly!

GRETCHEN

I have worked here longest.

DAVINA

Assuming all doors are locked, are there any windows?

GRETCHEN

No! There are no windows on this level. Or on the one above either.

THOMAZ

The control room, there is fire escape.

BETTE

Really? Great!

GRETCHEN

But the door to the fire escape might also be locked!

DAVINA

It's upstairs, they might've forgot to bar that one. Right. You've got nine minutes to get there. Pigtales, dreamboat: you lead the way. Go go go!

THOMAZ

Yes, yes. This way!

They RUN, PANTING HEAVILY.

JJ

Wait, wait! Davina? Davina stayed behind!

BETTE

What? Why??

JJ

I'll go get her.

JJ JOGS back.

JJ (cont'd)

(calls) Davina! Davina, we need to go! What are you doing?

DAVINA

I'm gonna try and disarm it.

JJ

Disarm the bomb? Can you do that?

DAVINA

Maybe. Maybe not.

JJ

Just come with us, then!

DAVINA

JJ. Margot's in the ballroom. We can't reach her and get us all out in nine minutes - oh, eight minutes. So I'm gonna try and stop the building from collapsing on her instead.

JJ

But if it goes off...

DAVINA

Eh. You don't know this about me JJ, but a long time ago, I was a bit of a hero. I know. I miss that. So go on, love. Off you go. Piss off now.

JJ

(torn) Ohhh. (choked) Good luck Davina.

DAVINA

Don't sound so tragic. I've survived worse than this.

BETTE

(calls) Come on you two!

DAVINA

(calls) She's coming! See you later, alligator.

JJ

In a while crocodile.

JJ JOGS off.

DAVINA

Oh bloody hell.

INT. MASQUERADE BALL, KOSCHEI

CHAOS. PANIC.

ANTOINE

Explosives! This power struggle will kill us all!

HILDA

(radio) Someone, report! We're under siege. Call the fire service!

GUISEPPE

I just wanted to run my aquarium in peace.

HILDA

Anyone? Horace? Dewey? Daisy? Dammit!

MORE CHAOS.

HILDA (cont'd)

Everyone, stay calm!

GUISEPPE

Do I smell smoke?

SPANISH DAVE

The building is on fire!

RANDOM VILLAIN

Well, I'm getting out of here.

HILDA

Where are you going? Stay with me if you want to live!

ANTOINE

Jenkins' men are outside. If we leave--

GUISEPPE

We have no choice. The building is on fire!

ANTOINE

Putain. OK let's go.

Everyone RUNS.

HILDA

Go on then! Run! Save your own skin! Pathetic.

Hilda GRABS Margot.

HILDA (cont'd)

Not you.

A GASP as Hilda grabs Margot.

CLICK of gun.

HILDA (cont'd)

You're staying with me. You should be thanking me.

(MORE)

HILDA (cont'd)
 Every single exit is barred. They're trapped. But you and I will be gone by the time they realise. Come along.

MARGOT
 I don't want to go with you.

HILDA
 It's not about what you want. It never was. Now move it!

INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE CONTROL ROOM, KOSCHEI

RUNNING FEET.

PARKER
 I'm coming, girls! Parker's on his way! Again! Ohhh.
 Please don't let there be anyone on the stairs, please don't let there be anyone on the stairs, please don't let there be anyone on the stairs--
 ARGHHHHH there's someone on the stairs!

Parker, JJ, Bette, Gretchen and Thomaz SHRIEK as they bump into him.

THOMAZ
 Don't hurt us!

BETTE
 I know Jujitsu!

JJ
 Parker??

PARKER
 Ooooh my God it's you guys, thank God!

BETTE
 Parker! It WAS you on the tannoy!

PARKER
 Yeah yeah! I was trying to warn ya, and then the bomb went off, except it was a different bomb to the one you was looking at, thank God, I thought you was all goners at that point so--

BETTE

Yes yes, Parker, we have to get out of this building.

GRETCHEN

Where's the control room? It should be on this floor.

PARKER

It is, it is. I only just left it to come and get you. Back this way!

JJ/BETTE/GRETCHEN

Great! Thank God!

They RUN there.

THOMAZ

I hope the exit to the fire escape is unlocked.

PARKER

It is, don't worry. That's how I got into the building. Here, control room's just through this door--

The distinct sound of a handle being turned, and a door not opening.

PARKER (cont'd)

Ummm. (RATTLE) Huh. Probably just a bit stiff...

Parker RATTLES the door again.

BETTE

Parker? Why is the door to the control room not opening?

PARKER

I... I dunno... it's...

JJ

Oh no. Was it on the latch?

PARKER

Ummm.

GRETCHEN

You let the door shut behind you and you didn't check if it was on the latch?? What is wrong with you British people??

THOMAZ

That was our only way out! We are going to die!

PARKER

Ohhh! What have I done?? What have I done??

JJ

Thomaz, you're the biggest, throw yourself at the door! Maybe we can force it open.

GRETCHEN

Yes! Do it, Thomaz! Do it!

THOMAZ

(psyching self up) Yes. Here we go, here we go...

While they speak, there is the occasional MASSIVE THUMP and GROAN as Thomaz hurls himself against the door.

THOMAZ (cont'd)

One more time...

BETTE

Put some bloody welly into it!

THUMP and a GROAN.

THOMAZ

I think I nearly got it there.

From a distance, another EXPLOSION.

JJ/BETTE/GRETCHEN/PARKER

Oh no. Oh bloody hell! Ohh!

THUMP and a GROAN

GRETCHEN

Another explosion!

THUMP and a GROAN

JJ

The door's not giving!

PARKER

I'm so sorry. I'm so sorry. This is all my fault!

BETTE
Well, yes, it is a bit.

THUMP and a GROAN.

PARKER
Ohhhh I'm useless! Useless! Useless!

JJ
Parker, that's not helpful right now.
And it's not true either.

PARKER
Isn't it??

THUMP and a GROAN.

JJ
Course it isn't. You never give up,
even after everything you've been
through, even if you feel angry, sad
and scared all the bloody time--

THUMP and a GROAN.

PARKER
I do. How did you know that?

JJ
(sad) How do you think?

THUMP and a GROAN.

PARKER
Oh. Yeah. You too, eh?

JJ
But despite all that, you don't take
it out on anyone, Parker. You're
still the same sweet guy I met in
Mockery three years ago.

BETTE
(mutters) He didn't tell you about
his tunnel of love, then?

JJ
So give yourself a break. We all make
mistakes. We're all just muddling
through. But you always try to help,
and that's gotta count for something.

PARKER
Right back atcha, mate.

THUMP and a LOUD GROAN.

BETTE

Thomaz, for God's sake just stop hurling yourself at the door. It's clearly not working.

THOMAZ

Ow.

GRETCHEN

Doomed. We are all doomed. I will never find out what happened to Gunther. I will never tour the metal festivals of Europe. It is over.

PARKER

Guys! Guys guys guys guys GUYS! I just remembered! Jenkins, he told me something, oh god what was it, a kind of cryptic clue to say on the tannoy for Margot... so she could get out of here.

JJ

Cryptic clue??

PARKER

So, so maybe if we figure it out--

BETTE

...we could get out of here! What is it, what's the clue??

GRETCHEN

Yes, yes! Tell us! I'm really good at crosswords!

PARKER

OK OK OK. Yeah. It was, 'Katie, where did you hide from your mum... where did you hide from your mum when you was a kid?!'

Beat.

BETTE

What the hell is that supposed to mean??

GRETCHEN

That is not a clue! That is bullshit!

THOMAZ

We're going to die!

JJ

No no, we can figure it out. Parker, you know Margot best. Did she ever tell you about hiding places??

PARKER

No, no, she didn't!
But, hang on, Jenkins said 'Katie'.
Not Margot... that must mean something.

GRETCHEN

Who is Katie?

BETTE

It's Margot's real name. Her real identity, in fact.

JJ

So when she was a kid, Katie lived in the servants' quarters at Mockery, so, ummm...

BETTE

Yes yes! And this ride is designed to look like Mockery Manor!

PARKER

(sotto) Oh no. Wait a minute.

JJ

Thomaz, Gretchen, is there anything that looks like servants' quarters on this ride?

GRETCHEN / THOMAZ

Yes, the spooky servant's area! Yah!

JJ / BETTE

Great! Let's go!

PARKER

Erm, yeah, small problem. The spooky servant's quarters are currently very much on fire.

BETTE

What?

PARKER

That first bomb, that's where it went off. Spooky servant's quarters. I saw it on the monitor.

THOMAZ

We are going to die!

BETTE

Hang on, hang on! Would Katie really hide in the servants quarters? I mean, she *lived* there. Isn't that the first place her mother would look?

JJ

You're right. She'd hide somewhere else in the Manor. Somewhere Dorothy couldn't get to.

PARKER

But that could be anywhere.

JJ

No no no no. Not just anywhere. When Dorothy showed me the Mockery dollhouse, there were two little girl figurines drinking stolen booze together. That was Margot and Katie. They were crouched behind a wardrobe in a frilly, pink bedroom.

PARKER

The real Margot's bedroom!

GRETCHEN

A frilly pink bedroom? That's the final room of the ride!

An OMINOUS CREAK.

PARKER

Then we better get there before this whole bloody building comes down.

INT. FRILLY PINK BEDROOM

The CRACKLE of a fire.

A RUBBERY SLAP as Hilda pushes the entrance flap aside.

HILDA

(coughs) Here we are. Go in.

MARGOT

No, no, no. This is Margot's bedroom.
Why have you brought me here?

HILDA

Margot's bedroom? Talking in the
third person now, are we? Jenkins
said you were odd. (Jenkins'
impression) 'But wouldn't you be,
Hilda, after everything she's
endured. I must protect my darling
Margot'.

MARGOT

Stop it.

HILDA

Pathetic.

MARGOT

I asked you a question. Why have you
brought me here?

HILDA

Because, Margot, we're going to
Narnia. Open the wardrobe.

MARGOT

Narnia?

HILDA

Open it!

CREAK.

HILDA (cont'd)

Good girl. Now move the fur coat out
of the way.

Hilda COUGHS.

RUSTLE of coat.

MARGOT

There's a hatch.

HILDA

Open it, then climb down the ladder
and wait for me in the tunnel. Don't
try and run. I will shoot you in the
back if I have to.

MARGOT

Why are you saving me? And no-one else?

HILDA

If any of those idiots had stuck by me, I'd have taken them too. God, I'll have to replace the whole bloody lot of them, how tedious. As for you... you're my insurance policy in case Jenkins turns up--

JENKINS

--Gossiping about me, ladies?

HILDA / MARGOT

Jenkins!

JENKINS

Is that why my ears are burning! Or is it because the building's on fire?

The CLICK of a gun.

JENKINS (cont'd)

Now Hilda, put the gun down and step away from Margot.

HILDA

Why would I do that? Drop your gun or I'll shoot Margot.

JENKINS

Shoot Margot and I will shoot you.

HILDA

But Margot will still be dead. And you don't want that, do you? She's everything to you. Isn't she?

JENKINS

Yes. She is.

MARGOT

No I'm not.

JENKINS

You are, my darling--

MARGOT

Oh just shut up! Shut up, Jenkins! You treat me like a child! You infantilise me!

JENKINS

Margot--

MARGOT

Everything you ever did was all for you!

JENKINS

Did Hilda tell you that? She's wrong. Power is a hollow thing on its own. My love for you, Margot, gave it meaning.

MARGOT

Well I don't love you.

Half beat.

JENKINS

Ha. Yes you do.

MARGOT

No. I never loved you. I thought I needed you, but I never wanted you. And now I realise I don't need you, either.

JENKINS

You're angry with me. I understand. But that's not--

MARGOT

I changed my will, Jenkins.

JENKINS

What?

MARGOT

You're not in it. The twins get everything.

HILDA

Oh dear.

JENKINS

Margot! Why would you...? After everything I've done for you! You've betrayed me.

HILDA

Well, there's another good reason to keep her alive. Once she's dead, you lose everything!

(MORE)

HILDA (cont'd)
 You can't stay in Wizzard if you
 don't have a theme park! Now, put the
 gun down.

GUN SHOT. And then ANOTHER GUNSHOT, to make sure.

A feminine GASP and GURGLE of pain. Who did Jenkins shoot?

JENKINS
 I'm sorry, my dear. Such a pity.
 After all we've been through
 together...

MARGOT
 (gasping) I can't believe you did
 that.

JENKINS
 What choice did I have?

MARGOT
 But you could have hit me!

JENKINS
 (cold) It was worth the risk to take
 the shot.

MARGOT
 You DID hit me! My ear, it's
 bleeding! You blew my earring off!

JENKINS
 Oh dear. What a loss. (coughs) Check
 if Hilda's dead, would you? I was
 aiming for the head, but the smoke...

Suddenly, the others come RUNNING in, COUGHING.

THOMAZ
 (distant) The bedroom...

JENKINS
 Who's that??

THOMAZ
 ...it is through this rubber flap.

FLAP.

JENKINS
 Nobody move! Hands up, all of you!

THOMAZ
 Oh no.

PARKER

Jenkins, don't shoot! It's me. And the twins. And some... friends.

JJ / BETTE

(gasp) Margot!? Jenkins!

MARGOT

Where's Davina?

JENKINS

What the blazes is going on?

THOMAZ

Is that Hilda on the floor??

GRETCHEN

She's bleeding!

BETTE

We have to figure out how to get out of here!

JENKINS

It's fine. I know what to do. Inside the wardrobe is a shaft with a very long ladder that leads to a tunnel. It is quite a long way down, but if we follow it, we'll emerge in Hilda's office.

JJ

Great!

PARKER

No! Don't do what he says. I'm not sure we can trust him!

JENKINS

(sighs) Not now, Parker.

PARKER

You're a gangster, Jenkins. A flipping gangster.

MARGOT

The smoke! We have to go!

THOMAZ

You know what, I'm happy to go first.

GRETCHEN

Yah. Screw this.

THOMAZ
Just down this ladder?

EFFORT GRUNTS as he climbs into wardrobe, FEET on a METAL LADDER.

JJ
Be careful!

THOMAZ
OK, thank you, see you on the other side!

FEET on a METAL LADDER.

GRETCHEN
(echoey) It's pitch dark! Ohh.

JENKINS
Margot, you next. Here, take my hand, I'll help you in...

MARGOT
Not until the others are safe.

PARKER
I'm not going before you and the twins.

BETTE
We don't need looking after, Parker!

JENKINS
The smoke is getting rather thick, can we just..!

PARKER
Ladies first.

BETTE
Oh my God, fine!

Effort noise, FEET on a METAL LADDER.

BETTE (cont'd)
Sexist nonsense...

MARGOT
JJ, hurry, you next.

JJ
See you down there--

HILDA GROANS.

Suddenly, a GUNSHOT! Margot is hit. She GASPS, HITS the floor.

Very quick -

JENKINS

Margot, no! Margot! Oh my God!

PARKER

What the hell! Who shot her??

JJ

Parker, move away from Hilda! She's not dead!

PARKER

What? Hilda, whe-- [hoick!]

A WHEEZING Hilda GRABS Parker mid-sentence.

HILDA

Don't move, boy.

JJ

Let him go, Hilda! Jenkins, stop her!

But Jenkins' focus is solely on Margot.

JENKINS

Margot, all this blood. That'll never do. Let me staunch it.

Hilda WHISPERS in Parker's ear.

HILDA

Parker, isn't it? I've met you before. Jenkins' little protegee. He wanted to bring you into the business, you know.

PARKER

What, Wizzard business??

HILDA

But then he realised you were too soft.

PARKER

Good. I'm glad!

BETTE

(distant) JJ?? What's going on up there?

HILDA

Tell her if she comes up, I'll shoot Parker.

JJ

(shouts) Stay down there, Bette! It's Hilda. She's got a gun!

PARKER

(choked) Jenkins... do something...

HILDA

Jenkins seems rather distracted, doesn't he?

JENKINS

I'll get you home, my love. Back to Mockery.

HILDA

Your old eyes failed you, Jenkins! Silly old sod, you only clipped me in the neck!

JJ

You're arm's bleeding too, Hilda. You're too hurt for this. Let Parker go and we'll help you.

HILDA

Oh shut up, stupid girl. I was wrong about you. You're no assassin. Jenkins, throw your weapons in the--

A CLICK of a safety being removed.

JJ

I said let Parker go... or I'll shoot. Yeah, I've got a gun too. And I've figured out where the safety is, and I'm pretty damn sure it's off.

HILDA

(laughs) You've never shot a gun in your life, have you?

JJ

Yeah I have.

HILDA

You idiot. You're pointing the gun straight at Parker's heart.

PARKER

Oh gawd!

JENKINS

I have to get Margot to a hospital!

JJ

Hilda, if you just let Parker go,
we'll let you climb down the ladder--

HILDA

And let Jenkins shoot me while my
hands are on the rungs?

JJ

Then we'll go down first. You come
after.

HILDA

And as soon as I emerge into the
tunnel, Jenkins shoots me. No.
This is what we'll do. Jenkins will
throw all of his weapons into the
corner, and I'll let Parker go.

JJ

Jenkins? Did you hear that?

JENKINS

Yes. Yes, I did. Alright.

The CLATTER of guns being thrown.

JENKINS (cont'd)

There. All my weapons. Gone.

HILDA

Thank you. You silly old fart.

GUNSHOT. JJ SHRIEKS. Jenkins is hit.

PARKER

(heartbroken) Jenkins!

HILDA

Ahhh, I've wanted to do that for a
long time. I think I'll go down the
ladder now. If anyone tries to follow
me, I will kill you.

JENKINS

You won't get far. My men are
everywhere, Hilda.

JJ
And you're bleeding, too!

HILDA
And you'll soon be dead from smoke inhalation, so we've all got problems haven't we. Except, I'll just hide in my office until the fire engine comes. Now then...

Hilda CLIMBS into the wardrobe.

JJ
(calls) Bette! Run! She's coming down!

BETTE
(distant) Ohh! Gretchen, Thomaz, run!

HILDA
Bye now!

FEET on a metal LADDER. PAINED sounds from Hilda as she descends.

JJ
We have to stop her before she gets to the others!

PARKER
How??

JENKINS
She's wounded: she'll be slow descending the ladder. She might even fall.

JJ
Maybe we can make her fall??

JENKINS
Yes. JJ, give me your gun. I'm going to shoot it down the shaft.

JJ
Oh! Yeah. Here.

Jenkins tries, drops it. It CLATTERS to the floor.

PARKER
You dropped it!

JENKINS
Sorry. Dizzy.

JJ
You're too weak. I'll do it.

JENKINS
Give it to me.

PARKER
JJ, let me do it! Hilda killed me
dad.

JENKINS
No. If you do this, you can never go
back.

JJ
I've done a lot I'm not proud of. So
what's one more thing. I'm gonna do
it.

PARKER
No, give it to me.

Parker SNATCHES the gun.

JJ
Parker! Give it back!

PARKER
There's no time.

CLICK.

JENKINS
No Parker. I won't let you!

Jenkins HURLS himself at Parker. They COLLIDE. The gun
CLATTERS to the floor.

PARKER
I've dropped the bloody gun!

JJ
Where'd it go?? Quick, we have to
find it!

PARKER
This bloody smoke, I don't know where
it's gone!

Lots of GRUNTS from Jenkins.

JJ
Jenkins, what are you doing??

JJ (cont'd)
Parker, get over here! He's dragging
himself into the hatch!

PARKER
What?? Grab him!

JENKINS
Stop it! Let me go!

HILDA
(distant) What are you doing?

JJ
I've got his belt!

PARKER
Jenkins, stop wiggling!

JENKINS
Let me fall, you idiots!

HILDA
(calls) Jenkins, back away from the
hatch!

PARKER
What?? You'll die!

JJ
You'll land on Hilda.

JENKINS
Exactly! Let me do this!

PARKER
No!

JENKINS
Parker, it wasn't Hilda who killed
your father. I lied! It was me. He
was going to tell the police about
Wizzzard! I had to stop him!

Beat. All sound drops away.

PARKER
What??

JJ's voice comes as if from afar.

JJ
(distant) What's he talki-- woah,
he's tipping forward!

PARKER

No. You're just saying that. Aren't you? You're just saying that. To make me let you go.

JENKINS

Am I? Are you sure?

JJ

(distant) Parker, snap out of it! I can't hold him alone!

JENKINS

Get Margot out of here, you two.
Don't leave her to burn.

The FAINT STRAINS of 'Give us a Smile Love' start up.

JENKINS (cont'd)

And tell her: I do love her. Goodbye m'boy.
(pushes off) Hrarrrr!

Jenkins rips himself from their grasp. JJ GASPS.

In **SLO-MO**, Jenkins falls -

(The song is in SLO-MO too)

JJ

No!

HILDA

No no no NO NO NO!

JENKINS

Bombs awaaaay!

A THUMP of bodies colliding, followed by--
another FINAL THUMP.

'Give us a Smile Love' morphs into ...

INT. A MEMORY OF DUNKELSCHLOSS - 1960

The POP of a champagne cork.

JENKINS

A toast! To Wizzard! To us.

HILDA
 (laughs) To keeping each other in
 check, you mean.

JENKINS
 Always.

Music fades.

EXT. RIDE QUEUE, TROUSERS MEOWSERS MEGA-COASTER

The HUBBUB of a ride queue. Distant TRUNDLE of a
 rollercoaster.

BETTE
 It's 10.30. They said they'd be here
 by now.

ATTENDANT
 Hey kid, no drinks on the ride.

JJ
 We're almost at the front of the
 queue. We're gonna have to do this
 alone.

QUEEN BOOBOOS
 Trousers meowsers!

BETTE
 JJ, why are we even here? You hate
 rollercoasters.

JJ
 Exactly. I'm facing my fears. Getting
 closure.

BETTE
 Closure?

JJ
 OK, yeah, so Parker was telling me
 about it this morning. It's about
 looking your pain straight in the
 eyes, and then locking your pain in a
 box and throwing the box in a well,
 and then you'll be free. Or something
 like that. And I thought, 'that
 sounds good.' So... here we are.

ATTENDANT
 Fill up from the front please!

Gretchen comes RUNNING up.

GRETCHEN
Hey! Sorry I'm late!

BETTE
Gretchen! Hiiii!

JJ
Hi Gretchen. Just in time.

GRETCHEN
Oh my god, guys. You will not believe what's happened.

BETTE
You can tell me about it afterwards. Come on, let's go on this bloody ride.

GRETCHEN
I can't. I'm sorry. There's a midday coach to Dusseldorf, if I go now, I might catch it.

JJ
Dusseldorf?

BETTE
What the hell's in Dusseldorf?

GRETCHEN
I'll tell you what's in Dusseldorf: Gunther! Gunther is in Dusseldorf! Can you believe it?

JJ / BETTE
What? No way!

GRETCHEN
Yah! So this morning, yah, I rang Pina because I want to start up the band again--

BETTE
That's great! I'll come to your gigs!

GRETCHEN
And Pina was like 'yah let's do it', and then she said we should ask Gunther if he wants to rejoin! And I was like, what do you mean? Gunther is missing!

(MORE)

GRETCHEN (cont'd)

And she was like - and I am so, so mad about this - she was like, 'oh I wasn't supposed to tell you, Gunther's been on tour with Clotmonger this whole freakin' time!'

JJ

What??

GRETCHEN

And I was like, 'are you freaking kidding me right now??'

JJ

That's crazy!

GRETCHEN

Yah! So apparently, the night of Battle of the Bands, Gunther got drunk and stowed away on Clotmonger's tour bus! When they found him, they thought it was super funny, and gave him a job as a roadie!

JJ

Ohmygod, what an asshole!

BETTE

What a wanker.

JJ

I can't believe it.

GRETCHEN

Yah! And after a couple of weeks on the road, having the time of his life, he rang Pina and told her what he'd done, but apparently he was like, 'don't tell Gretchen, she'll kill me.' Yah, I will kill him! He's in Dusseldorf now, with Clotmonger, and I am going there to say, 'what the heck, dude!' and then, then I will kill him.

BETTE

Wow. You need better people around you, Gretchen. People like me.

JJ

Well, good luck, Gretchen.
Give him hell!

GRETCHEN

Thanks. I will.

BETTE

Do you really have to go right now?

GRETCHEN

Uh, yah. I do.

BETTE

I mean, yes, of course you do. Of course of course of course of course of course. But we must keep in touch-- ooh ooh, you could come and visit us at Mockery Manor, and stay as long as you like and--

GRETCHEN

Yah, I've really gotta go. Bye guys!

JJ / BETTE

OK. Bye! Good luck!

GRETCHEN

(retreating) Oh and Thomaz says he's not coming either, he's gone to rescue his sister!

JJ

(calls) OK! Cool! Bye Gretchen!

Beat.

BETTE

Do you think she'll keep in touch?

JJ

Probably not. God, that's insane about Gunther though, isn't it?

BETTE

Yeah!

(beat) Who's Gunther again?

JJ

Not sure.

RIDE ATTENDANT

(stroppey) Can you two get in the ride vehicle? You're holding up the whole queue.

JJ

Alright.

BETTE
Keep your pants on.

JJ
Geez.

They CLIMB in.

QUEEN BOOBOOS
Welcome to the Trousers Meowers
Mega-coaster! Keep hands and feet
inside the Booboos buggy at all
times. And have a trousers meowsering
good time!

JJ GROANS.

BETTE
You alright? You've gone a bit green.

JJ
Haven't been on a coaster since the
whole Matty thing.

BETTE
Is this a good idea?

The RIDE STARTS.

JJ
Too late now. Oh God. Here we go.
Hold my hand?

BETTE
Of course. You can do this, sis!
You're JJ. You don't run away from
fear, you run towards it.

JJ
Mmmhmm.

BETTE
You embrace the nightmare!

JJ
Yeah.

MR CRACKLES
Goodness me, I can't find my
trousers!

The ride TRUNDLES long.

BETTE

Hmm. It must be one of those slow-build coasters.

JJ

Yeah.

QUEEN BOOBOOS

Page-boy Crackles, where are your trousers?

BETTE

Have you noticed everyone on this ride is five years old?

JJ

Are they?

MR CRACKLES

Trousers Meowsers!

JJ

Is this... is this an infants' rollercoaster?

BETTE

Bloody hell! It is! Where do they get off, calling this a 'mega' coaster!

JJ

I suppose it's pretty 'mega' if you're five.

CHILD

Mummy, this rollercoaster is boring.

JJ

Or not.

BETTE

Y'know, maybe there's a lesson in this. Maybe sometimes the things one fears the most aren't that scary after all.

JJ

People have died, Bette. A building burned down. I almost shot a woman in cold blood.

BETTE

True, yes.

MR CRACKLES

Where are my trousers?

BETTE

OK, so then, maybe the lesson is...
ummmm...

QUEEN BOOBOOS

Can you find Mr Crackle's trousers?

BETTE

Oh it doesn't matter. Whatever the lesson is, you're a bloody hero! God, I can't believe you got to save the day *again!*

JJ

I didn't. Jenkins did. Kind of.

BETTE

Ugh, it's just so annoying I didn't get to do more. I wish you'd gone down the ladder first, before me.

JJ

Are you having a laugh??

BETTE

I feel like I've got something to prove now.

JJ

What does *that* mean?

MR CRACKLES

Brrrrr, my bum is cold!

JJ

Bette, why do you look so sneaky? If you're planning something...

BETTE

It's just an idea I've had. Cos I've been thinking, I need a job that can really fulfill me, so I can be a better, happier mummy to Freddie. And y'know, there's loads of room in the Manor for me to set up an office.

JJ

An office?

BETTE

Yes. My very own office. And on the door: Bette Armstrong Investigations.

JJ

Investigations? Oh my God, you wanna be a PI!? Because of what I said that time? I was kidding, you maniac!

MR CRACKLES

I found my trousers!

A FANFARE.

BETTE

Do you think Parker will be OK?

JJ

I dunno. I hope so. He said he's glad we're coming back to Mockery with him. That we're the only ones that could ever understand what he's been through. Well, us and Margot. And Davina.

BETTE

Davina! Now there's a dark horse! The image of her carrying Margot down that ladder, my god, that'll stay with me for life! And then wading through the waters of The Elves of Europe, with Margot flung over her shoulder, like something out of a Vietnam film! Oh my God.

JJ

Shame she didn't turn up a bit quicker.

BETTE

She didn't need to. You had it in hand. You're stronger than you think, little sister.

JJ

Little sister?

BETTE

By two minutes.

QUEEN BOOBOOS

Oh boohoo, it's the end of the ride!

ATTENDANT

OK. Everyone out please! Exit to your left.

They CLAMBER OUT. The children move through a TURNSTILE.

Bette and JJ WALK.

BETTE

Well, that was a weird ride.
Unsurprisingly.

JJ

Can we circle back to you being a PI?

BETTE

If you insist! It's going to be amazing! You could be my partner!

JJ

No thanks. I can't, anyway. I've, er, well... Margot said she needs help with Mockery, now that Jenkins is... ummm...

BETTE

You're going to be a Mockery manager?!

JJ

Yeah. Actually, I was thinking I could make some of the exhibits more historically accurate. Y'know, like, really explore how awful the ducking stool was, and the socio-economic realities of being a peasant.

BETTE

Oh yes, I'm sure the kids will love that.

JJ

Oh go and investigate a bloody murder, why don't you.

Their voices FADE as they walk away.

BETTE

(affectionate) Get lost, you twat.

JJ

Oh my God. You're gonna be unbearable as a PI.

BETTE

What do you mean? I'm gonna be the best PI ever!

JJ

You're totally gonna have those blinds aren't you, the ones with the light coming through. 'Oh I'm Bette, posh posh posh, look at me, standing by my window.'

MR CRACKLES

Come ride with us again real soon!
Hee hee hee...

Crackle's LAUGH morphs into VINCENT PRICE'S LAUGH...

THEME MUSIC.

CREDITS

You have been listening to Mockery Manor, written and directed by Lindsay Sharman, with music, sound design and editing by Laurence Owen...

The credits and music become CRACKLY, as if the signal has been interrupted. And suddenly we're transported to...

EXT. THE BLACK FOREST

The CAW of a crow. The FLAP of its wings as it approaches and settles on the shoulder of...

LORRY DRIVER

How do, Mr Munnin. Your feathers look a bit singed. Here, I got a nice fat earthworm for ya. Did you know, this big fella can only be found in the Black Forest.

CAW.

The lorry driver's feet CRUNCHING along the forest floor.

CAW CAW.

LORRY DRIVER (cont'd)

Aye. Time to move on. Well done getting all them Wizzards out of that burning building.

(MORE)

LORRY DRIVER (cont'd)
I might have been tempted to leave
them there meself.

CAW

What's that, Mr Munnin?

CAW.

LORRY DRIVER (cont'd)
Oh aye. The twins. Daft buggers.
There'll be in trouble again before
long, mark my words. I can smell it
on 'em.

CAW.

You could keep an eye on 'em. Check
on Jimmy Pigs first though, see if
he's got any jobs need doing.

CAW CAW. He FLIES AWAY.

LORRY DRIVER (cont'd)
Aye, no rest for the wicked, Mr
Munnin. Mind how you go.

CAW CAW.

LORRY DRIVER
Now then... where's that painting by
that Dutch fella? It'll look champion
in me downstairs bathroom.