

M&B Paranormal Investigations
Episode 2
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BERNARD
Previously on M&B's Paranormal
Investigations--

BERNARD FROM THE PAST
That ghost-hunting company that the
client mentioned... I've found out
who they are.

MAGENTA FROM THE PAST
Coven Co.

BERNARD FROM THE PAST
It looks like there's a phone number
here.

MAGENTA FROM THE PAST
Should we ring it?

Phone RINGS

BERNARD FROM THE PAST
Shall we pretend we're a client, is
that what we're going to do?

MAGENTA FROM THE PAST
Oh yes, yes, let's do that.

PHONE MESSAGE
Greetings, please leave a message
after the beep.

BEEP

MAGENTA FROM THE PAST
Hello, we are a client. So if you
could send all those details to
madamemagentaUK@gmail.com. Goodbye!

BERNARD FROM THE PAST
I think we got away with that.

BEEP

BERNARD FROM THE PAST (cont'd)
Let me check our emails. You never
know, we might have a new request
from a client. Oh, we do!

MAGENTA FROM THE PAST
Read it to me, Bernie!

BERNARD FROM THE PAST
Oh.

MAGENTA FROM THE PAST
What?

BERNARD FROM THE PAST
Well, you're never going to believe
this, but the client is... Margot
Mockery.

THEME TUNE

INT. CAR

BERNARD
Hello! Bernard here! Welcome to our
second day 'on the job' as 'M&B
Paranormal Investigations!' Although
really, this is our first day - the
last one didn't count because the
client wouldn't pay us. In fact, he
sued us for damages. So in fact, we
lost money. Haha! Ha.

MAGENTA
That won't happen again because
Bernard, you've drawn up a contract,
haven't you, dear?

BERNARD
Yes, so the new contract says that we
are not liable for damages, and if we
get rid of the ghost, the client has
to pay--

MAGENTA
--even if everything around them is
in smoking ruins.
Talking of which, the bloody state of
this (BLEEEEP) road! Our suspension's
going to be (BLEEEEP)

BERNARD
Poor car. So we're currently driving
down the dirt track that leads to the
Mockery car park. That's 'Mockery
Manor theme park', I'm sure you've
heard the adverts. Remember the
adverts?

MAGENTA
Essawhazzagain?

BERNARD
(sings) Mockery Manor/

BERNARD/MAGENTA
(sings) where childhood never dies,
it just goes on and on.

BERNARD
Yes, something like that. A lot of
fun.
So Margot Mockery is today's client!
Fun fact: many years ago, Magenta and
I were employees of the Mockery
empire. Isn't that right, dear?

MAGENTA
Yes! We were entertainers at the Four
Spurs Saloon. It was awful. Wasn't
it?

BERNARD
Terrible.

MAGENTA
Customer service at its most feral.
And do you remember Bernard, I said
to you at the time, 'this place is
overrun with ghosts.'

BERNARD
You did! And you tried to tell them,
didn't you dear?

MAGENTA
Not at first - no-one wants to hear
they've got a ghosts. It's like
telling someone they've got pubic
lice, they take it so personally! Or
they think you've given it to them.
(MORE)

MAGENTA (cont'd)

But do you remember, then we saw Margot Mockery in the fruit and veg aisle at ASDA just after she got back from a cruise; there she was, squeezing a mango with a sort of air of tragic vulnerability, and I thought to myself 'this woman deserves to know what's going on in her own park', so I went straight up to her and I said 'your alien rollercoaster keeps breaking down because the ghost of a murdered woman is futzing with the electricians.'

BERNARD

Yes, I remember now. The Roswell Crash Coaster. That ride was *always* closed. They must've spent a fortune trying to fix it.

MAGENTA

Exactly, I was only trying to help. I said to her, I said 'Look, Margot, don't waste your money on electricians. You need an exorcist. In fact, for twenty quid, I'll have a go myself.' That's what I told her. But did she want to know?

BERNARD

She did not. She was furious. I thought she was going to start lobbing mangos at us. We were fired from the park not long after that... they never told us why. My God, do you think *that's* why??

MAGENTA

Yep. Should've kept my mouth shut. No-one ever wants to hear it. Oh for crying out loud, all the good parking spots are taken! I am not parking a million miles from the front entrance. Maybe I'll just bump up on the pavement...

Window WHIRRS down

MAGENTA (cont'd)

(shouts) Get out of the way please! Move! Out of the way!

BERNARD

So why *now*, do you think?

MAGENTA

Why what now?

BERNARD

Why did Margot send us that email?
She's clearly accepted the park has a
ghost problem... but why us, why now?

MAGENTA

Something must've happened. Something
forced her to confront the truth.
Right, this'll do. Come on, let's get
out.

BERNARD

I'm not sure we're supposed to park
here. But we're not guests, are we?

MAGENTA

No, we're employees.

BERNARD

We're here to do a job, aren't we. I
think we can park here.

PARKS.

They get out, start walking.

The sound of CRUM N BASS music gets louder as they near the
park.

BERNARD (cont'd)

Boy, I bet she regrets not listening
to you that time in ASDA! She must
feel terrible for firing us. *That's*
why she's hired us again. As a way to
say sorry!

MAGENTA

They all come crawling back
eventually.
Ugh, look at the size of this queue.
No thanks. Let's go round. It's not
like we need tickets anyway.

BERNARD

Right oh. Gosh, never thought I'd see
the big fuchsia arches of Mockery
Manor again.

DAVINA

(distant) Oi! Youse two! You can't just walk in without paying! And is that your car??

MAGENTA

(shouts) It's alright! We're here on business!

(aside) I reckon Margot's at the manor, let's head there. Hoo-hoo. I can't wait to see the great lady humbled before me. 'You were right all along!' she'll say. "Will you help me? Will you forgive me!'. And I'll be ever-so gracious, I'll say--

SHOUTS from Davina.

BERNARD

Umm, Magenta? The lady from the ticket booth, she's coming after us. Maybe I should explain who we are. (calls) Hello! It's alright, we're not queue-jumping! I mean we are but we're--OOF!

IMPACT as she tackles him.

MAGENTA

Oh my God!

CLICK

EXT. DEBUTANTE'S WALTZ

CLICK.

Sounds of the Waltzer.

BERNARD

We're back. The elderly lady from the ticket booth tackled me to the ground! Gosh. Quite unexpected. I think I might've dislocated my shoulder.

MAGENTA

Come here, Bernard.

BERNARD

You couldn't lodge it back in, could you?

MAGENTA

Yes, alright, brace yourself. One,
two - RAH!

Magenta relocates his shoulder. THUNK. Bernard YELPS.

MAGENTA (cont'd)

How's that?

BERNARD

Much better dear, thank you.
So anyway, we've been told to wait
for Margot Mockery at the Debutante's
Waltz, so that's what we're doing.

MAGENTA

The Debutante's Waltz, otherwise
known as the Exorcist... because all
the little kiddies puke their guts
out when they ride it. Like Linda
Blair.

MARGOT

So you're familiar with the ride.

BERNARD

Oh! Hello!

MAGENTA

Margot Mockery. So we meet again.

MARGOT

Oh? I'm sorry, have we met before?

MAGENTA

(confused) Eh? What do you mean,
'have we met before'?

BERNARD

(confused) It's us. Magenta and
Bernard. We... we worked for you?

MARGOT

When? Now?

BERNARD

Yes but also before. Isn't that why
we're here? You fired us--

MAGENTA

--from Four Spurs! Because of ASDA!

BERNARD

The mango! The tragic mango!

MARGOT

I never fired you from ASDA. I've never worked at ASDA. I own a theme park.

BERNARD

You really don't know who we are?

MARGOT

I thought you were from M&B Paranormal Investigations. The email said to expect a woman in a sparkly turban and a man in unfeasibly tight trousers.

MAGENTA

Yes, that's us.

BERNARD

Clearly.

MARGOT

But you just said you work at a supermarket!

MAGENTA

We don't... ugh! For Pete's sake! Show her the ID, Bernard.

BERNARD

Right oh.

MAGENTA

Let's start again. You have a ghost. We're here to get rid of it. Yes? Good. Take us to the alien rollercoaster.

BERNARD

The Roswell Crash Coaster. That's what it's called.

MARGOT

I do not require your services at the Roswell Crash Coaster.

MAGENTA

You don't?

MARGOT

You'll be working here, at the Debutante's Waltz. And I'm not sure a library card counts as identification.

BERNARD

We're getting business cards printed up. When we can afford it.

MAGENTA

Hang on. The Debutante's Waltz is haunted?

MARGOT

Of course. (arch) Can't you sense it?

MAGENTA

Ohhh yes yes, of course I can sense it. How ridiculous.

MARGOT

For seventy years, bilious children have expelled the contents of their stomachs while riding the Waltzer. To think, all that time it was because of a ghost.

MAGENTA

(mutters) You sure about that?

MARGOT

The park closes at six. Wait until all the guests are gone before you begin. You have until tomorrow morning to do whatever it is you do. I'll leave you now.

BERNARD

Wait! Margot. Sorry. Can I ask... what happened? I mean, what it was that made you realise you needed an exorcist? How long have you known the park is haunted..?

Beat. MUSIC changes to something much darker.

MARGOT

In a way, I've always known. I've lived alongside ghosts my entire life. The others, they had me believe it was all in my head. But now... my eyes are open. I've finally learned to trust myself... to see things for what they truly are. I hope that answers your question.

Beat.

MAGENTA

(mutters) Not at all really. But anyway, never mind.

(out loud) OK, thank you Margot, you go back to your big old mansion and we'll get the ghost out of the Waltzer for you, no problemo.

MARGOT

See you in the morning.

MAGENTA

See you then. Byeee.

BERNARD

Goodbye.

Beat.

BERNARD (cont'd)

Crikey. Didn't think we'd be spending all night in a haunted theme park.

MAGENTA

You think *that's* bad...

BERNARD

Oh no. What is it?

MAGENTA

It's not haunted. I haven't sensed a single ghost since we got here. Someone's already got rid of the buggers.

BLEEP.

EXT. PARK, AFTER DARK

BLEEP.

BERNARD

Hello, us again. So it's, umm, 10.45pm. About an hour ago they turned all the lights off, by which point, the temperature had dropped to 6 degrees Celsius.

(MORE)

BERNARD (cont'd)

Brr! There we were, in the dark,
alone, very cold... so Magenta
jimmied the lock on the door of the
Unidentified Frying Objects Diner,
and now we're now sitting in a booth
with the heating on full blast,
eating hotdogs out of a can we found
in the larder.

MAGENTA

I'm making another drink, what'll you
have?

BERNARD

I'll try a 'coke float' this time,
please.

MAGENTA

This is quite fun, isn't it Bernard.
Now we're not freezing our tits off.
Doobedoo...

She RUMMAGES and SINGS.

BERNARD

The current task on our 'to do' list
is... well, it's figuring out what to
do. So far, we've narrowed it down to
three options. One, get in the car
and leave. But if we do that, we
won't get paid.

MAGENTA

(calls) So we're not doing that.

BERNARD

No. Two, we come clean and say 'sorry
Margot, no ghosts to be found'. But
then again, we wouldn't get paid, and
Margot might even think we're lying
...or incompetent! She might leave us
a bad review. So we can't do that.
Third option is umm, well... we lie.
We tell her we did an exorcism, it
was successful, here's the invoice
for our services. But the problem
with that is--

MAGENTA

Voila. Coke float... with a shot of
bourbon. This place has booze,
Bernard! Booze! Things are looking
up.

BERNARD

Oh good!
What was I saying?

MAGENTA

You were saying, the problem with telling her we got rid of the ghost is that she seems to think the puking children are the direct result of paranormal activity. So if nothing changes and the kiddywinks continue to, y'know, blerrrrgh, she won't believe we've done the job she hired us to do, and once again, we won't get paid.

BERNARD

Right. Yes. And of course, the real reason that children get so sick on the Debutante's Waltz is because..?

MAGENTA

Because it's ancient. Remember when we went on it, years ago? Remember how it moved? Like a whirling dervish--

BERNARD

--with an inner ear disorder--

MAGENTA

--and bad knees.

BERNARD

It's so jerky.

MAGENTA

And spinny. Plus the children who go on the damn thing have been stuffing their faces with theme park food. It's the perfect storm.

BERNARD

So it's definitely not a ghost making children nauseous?

MAGENTA

No. That's not what ghosts do. Not in my experience anyway. It's just not a thing.

BERNARD

So why does Margot think it is?

MAGENTA

Someone must've told her that.
Someone convinced her the park is
haunted.

BERNARD

Hang on, you said it WAS haunted.

MAGENTA

It was. When we worked here, it was
riddled! A couple in the Manor; that
one on the rollercoaster of course;
there was something in the woods--

BERNARD

Oooh stop it, it's giving me the
willies.

MAGENTA

Well, it needn't, because they're not
there anymore. They've been
exorcised.

BERNARD

Or maybe they chose to move on
themselves?

MAGENTA

All at once? What do you think they
had a meeting? 'Pack up, lads, we've
had our fun.'

BERNARD

Yes, that does seem unlikely.
So let me see if I've got this
straight: the park WAS very haunted,
and then someone came along and told
Margot Mockery it was haunted -
someone other than you, I mean -
someone she actually listened to--

MAGENTA

(mutters) Why wouldn't she listen?
The cheek of it.

BERNARD

And then at some point, someone got
rid of all the ghosts in the park,
but Margot doesn't know that, so she
still thinks it's haunted, and that's
why Margot employed us to get rid of
the Waltzer ghost. Who doesn't exist.

MAGENTA

Clear as mud, isn't it. And regardless, this hasn't solved our problem which is that we need to get paid, or we're in deep financial doodoo. And of course, Margot deserves to have peace of mind that her park is ghost-free.

BERNARD

So option 4: we need to prove to Margot that we've gotten rid of the ghost in the Waltzer. Who doesn't exist.

MAGENTA

That's right.

BERNARD

(worried) That's making children throw up. Except it isn't. Because it doesn't exist.

MAGENTA

Oh! Oh! That's it!

BERNARD

What?

MAGENTA

We need to fix the ride.

BERNARD

We need to fix the ride?

MAGENTA

Make it smoother! So nobody feels sick when they ride it!

BERNARD

Smoother? So, fix the suspension?

MAGENTA

See? You already know how to do it. Haha!

BERNARD

What? Magenta! You want *me* to fix it? When? *Now*?

MAGENTA

Before tomorrow morning, yes.

BERNARD

But but... darling, I might have an engineering degree--

MAGENTA

A first class engineering degree, and a Masters in something...electronic, I dunno. And you tinker with bits of metal and whatnot all the time!

BERNARD

But that doesn't mean I know how to fix a seventy year old theme park ride! In a few hours! Without any tools!

MAGENTA

Oh there's bound to be a Mockery maintenance shed around here somewhere. I'll break in and you can borrow what you need.

BERNARD

I don't know what I need!

MAGENTA

Darling, just look for a Youtube tutorial.

BERNARD

A Youtube tutorial??? A Youtube tutorial??? Yes, that might work.

MAGENTA

Excellent. And I'll make some espresso martinis to keep us going! Come on, Bernie! It's an adventure! We can do it!

BERNARD

Alright.

INT. MANOR - NEXT MORNING

CLICK.

BERNARD

(exhausted) Hello, Bernard here. We did it. We fixed the ride.

MARGOT

The ghost is gone?

MAGENTA

It is! And I do believe that as soon as the spirit left, the ride itself breathed a sigh of relief. Didn't it Bernie?

BERNIE

Ehhhwehh...

MAGENTA

It relaxed! It might've even relaxed too much, so I suggest you get your ride engineers to give it a quick once-over, just in case there are loose nuts.

BERNARD

(weak) Just in case.

MAGENTA

(mutters) In case it's a bit dangerous now.

MARGOT

Is your partner alright? He's swaying.

MAGENTA

He's a little tired. It was a very difficult exorcism. An epic battle!

BERNARD

Just gonna have a little lie down on the floor...

MARGOT

But you look well.

MAGENTA

I have a freakish constitution. Sleep is an optional extra. Now, about payment...

MARGOT

As soon as the first batch of school children ride the Waltzer and all is well, the money will be in your bank account.

MAGENTA

Thank God. Pleasure doing business with you, Margot. Come on, Bernard!

(MORE)

MAGENTA (cont'd)
 (beat) Oh, one last thing, before we
 leave. Who told you the Waltzer was
 haunted?

MARGOT
 Why do you want to know?

MAGENTA
 Oh, curiosity. And un soupcon of
 suspicion.

MARGOT
 I see. You think someone lied to an
 old lady? I'm confused in my dotage!
 Vulnerable to manipulation!

MAGENTA
 No no no, I didn't say that. The park
 WAS haunted. If they told you THAT,
 they didn't lie.
 So did whoever told you it was
 haunted also get rid of the ghosts?

MARGOT
 Yes. Well, except for the Waltzer,
 obviously. They didn't want to touch
 the Waltzer.

MAGENTA
 Why not?

MARGOT
 Because it's encrusted in seventy
 years of bodily fluids.

BERNARD
 (weak) Oh God. It was. It was!

MARGOT
 They suggested I hire someone else to
 deal with it.

MAGENTA
 (suspicious) Oh did they?

MARGOT
 You should be pleased: they
 recommended you; gave me your email
 address.

MAGENTA / BERNARD
 Did they now / What, they told you
 our email address?? / That's very
 interesting.

MARGOT

They said you were the only other paranormal agency in this part of the country, and that as a small, independent business, you'd welcome the work. No matter how disgusting.

MAGENTA

How thoughtful.

BERNARD

(whispers) Magenta, you told Coven Co your email address on the answer phone message!

MAGENTA

I know.

MARGOT

Did you say Coven Co? That's them.

BERNARD

(whispers) They must've found out who we were. And then...

MAGENTA

(whispers) They gave us an impossible task. Get rid of a ghost...

BERNARD

...that doesn't exist. They set us up to fail. But why?

MAGENTA

They realised we're competition. And seized the opportunity to destroy us. Oooh can't believe, it wankers.

MARGOT

Why are you whispering to each other.

MAGENTA

Sorry, Margot. We were just discussing... business. Speaking of which, perhaps you could leave us a review on our website? And perhaps on Coven Co's website as well, thanking them for recommending us. It would direct some traffic towards our business, which is clearly what Coven Co wanted to do out of the goodness of their heart. Bless them. Would you mind?

MARGOT

Of course. Credit where credit is due. I'd be happy to.

MAGENTA

So kind. It can be tough when you're a small, independent business. (gruff, cinematic) You have to fight... very hard. Which we're more than happy to do.

THE END OF THE EPISODE, THANK YOU FOR LISTENING, KISSEES