

Mockery Manor SEASON 2

Episode 1

'Earthworm'

Written by Lindsay Sharman

Music and Sound Design by Laurence Owen

INT. PARKER'S OFFICE, MOCKERY MANOR

The radio is PLAYING A TYPICAL 1992 POP SONG.

RADIO DJ

Brilliant stuff, Lange Katz with Uh
Oh. Coming up, shaping up to be one
of the biggest hits of '92, it's Guys
4 Life.

PARKER

(mutters) Oh no, not Guys 4 Life.
Cheesy boyband rubbish. It'll never
catch on.

Parker turns the radio off.

The phone starts RINGING.

PARKER (cont'd)

(calls) Davina! Can you get that?
Davina!
Ugh, where is she now?

No response. Parker SIGHS.

PARKER (cont'd)

I'll get it, shall I? Again? What's
the point in having a flippin'
secretary when she's always on a
break...

Picks phone up.

PARKER (cont'd)

(fast, professional) Good morning,
Wizzard Entertainment Mockery
Manager Assistant Manor, I mean
Mockery Manor Assistant *Manager*
Parker speaking, how may I help?

TELEPHONE OPERATOR

Good morning. I have a reverse call
from Tokyo, Japan, will you accept
the charges?

PARKER
Tokyo?? Cost a fortune, won't it?
Who's calling?

TELEPHONE OPERATOR
A Miss JJ Armstrong.

The Mockery theme begins...

PARKER
(nervous) Sorry, can you repeat that?
I thought you said...

TELEPHONE OPERATOR
JJ Armstrong.

Parker GROANS.

TELEPHONE OPERATOR (cont'd)
(distant) Hello? Hello? Do you accept
the charges?

PARKER
(dread) No, no. Please no.

THEME TUNE, punctuated by...

MARGOT V.O.
Long Cat Media presents Mockery Manor
Season 2, Episode 1: Earthworm.

INT. PHONEBOOTH, TOKYO - NIGHT

The faint background noise of PEDESTRIANS, CARS and CAR
HORNS.

Someone BANGS on the glass of the phone booth.

RING TONE.

JJ
(shouts) I'll be out in a minute!
(mutters) Pick up the phone. Come on,
Parker!

CLICK. Parker comes on the line.

PARKER
Erm...hello..?

JJ

Parker! Thank God! I didn't know who else to call!

PARKER

JJ. It's really you. Why are you in Tokyo?

JJ

It's a long story, but listen: I need you to wire me some money.

PARKER

You what? Bloody hell, straight to the point. No 'How are you, Parker? How have you been for the last 3 years?'

JJ

Parker, please, I haven't got time! I'm in trouble.

PARKER

(wary) Oh yeah? What kind of trouble?

JJ

It's too much to explain--

PARKER

--I think you should *try*!

JJ

(v fast) Fine! Fine, OK. So there's these Russians, and these Japanese guys, and I've got this... thing that belongs to them, and I turned up to hand it over and the contact was... anyway, I panicked, and I left, and I still have the thing, and now they're probably looking for me. I mean, they're definitely looking for me. And I don't think I can just give it to them anymore.

PARKER

Bloody hell! What's this 'thing'? It ain't drugs is it??

JJ

I haven't got time to explain, Parker! I'm in danger, alright?? You've got to help me!

PARKER
Can't you go to the police?

JJ
No!

PARKER
Why not??

JJ
Because I did a bad thing, Parker!

Someone BANGS on the phonebooth glass.

JJ (cont'd)
(shouts) JUST GO AWAY.

PARKER
Who's that? Is he trying to hurt
you??

JJ
It's fine.

PARKER
(faint) Oh gawd. This is bringing
back memories...

JJ
I'm in a phonebooth. Someone else
just wants to use it.

More BANGING on the glass.

JJ (cont'd)
Go away! (shouts) Omae o korosu!

PARKER
You speak Japanese??

JJ
Parker, I really need to get out of
the country. But I don't have any
money.

PARKER
How much do you need?

JJ
Enough for a plane ticket. Or passage
on a freight ship. Yeah, that might
be safer.

PARKER

Where do you need to go? You could come here?

JJ

No. I can't come back to England.
(moans) Oh God. Why did I call you?
This is pointless.

PARKER

Oh that's lovely, that is!

JJ

I didn't mean... (sighs). This isn't about *us*, Parker. Look, I wish I'd stayed in touch with you. I wish I'd done a lot of things differently.

PARKER

(quiet, sad, intense) Yeah, JJ. Me too.
(beat) Well... actually, that's not strictly true. I mean, I'm doing alright, I'm doing alright. I got me own flat now, I call it the Lad Pad, that's what I call it, and my salary is pukka, mate...

JJ

Parker, I'm kind of in a hurry? Are you gonna lend me the money or not?

PARKER

Oh. Sorry. Yes. Absolutely.
Hang on, I've just had an idea.
Mockery Manor deals with this park in Germany, in the middle of the Black Forest.

JJ

Ohhkay?

PARKER

I've been there a couple of times, on business - (perky) cos I'm the assistant manager now! Did you hear? Probably not... might get a company car soon, Jenkins said.
(clears throat) Anyway. Sorry. So this place in Germany, it's run by a woman called Hilda. She's great. She's really nice, old pal of Jenkins, you'd love her.

(MORE)

PARKER (cont'd)
 She can't half get strict though.
 Tell you what, it's kind of hot, it's
 like 'ooh, tell me off.'--

JJ
 Parker!

PARKER
 Sorry, ah, yeah right. You could go
 there. I could call her, tell her
 you're coming. You could lay low
 there for as long as you need.

JJ
 (dread) In a theme park? In the
 middle of a forest?

PARKER
 Is that a problem?

JJ
 No. No! No. It's fine. It's a good
 idea... a German theme park. No-one
 would look for me there.

PARKER
 Safe as houses.

JJ
 I'll do it.

PARKER
 Great.

JJ
 So. What's it called?

PARKER
 Dunkelschloss.

Into the Dunkelschloss ADVERT...

DUNKELSCHLOSS ADVERT

Complete with VHS warp.

MALE SINGER
 Come and make some memories in a
 magical world of fun!
 Eurobear's waiting to welcome you
 home, to Dunkel Dunkel Dunkel
 SCHLOSSSS!

CHILDREN
(cheering)

FEMALE V.O.
Discover a magical land of fairytales
in the heart of the Black Forest!
Hear the Little Mermaid's lament on
the Sea Foam Rapids.

EERIE MERMAID WARBLING.

FEMALE V.O. (cont'd)
Spin gold into fun on
Rumpelstiltskin's Golden Ferris
Wheel.

GNOMEY CACKLING.

FEMALE V.O. (cont'd)
And head on down to Baba Yaga's
Chicken Hut, for the best fried
chicken in Germany!

COWBOY
Yee-haw!

BABA YAGA CACKLING.

FEMALE V.O.
Call [phone number] for your free
planning video.

MALE SINGER
Come and give Eurobear a great big
hug!
At Dunkel Dunkel Dunkel
Dunkelschloss!

FEMALE V.O.
And new for '92, don't miss the
Trousers Meowers Mega-coaster!

The sound cuts out, as if dropped into a well.

EXT. DUNKELSCHLOSS - DAY

GERMAN POLKA MUSIC.

CHILDREN, TURNSTILES clacking, distant ROAR of a
rollercoaster.

TANNOY VOICE 1 (ALEX)
 Hello. (clears throat). Welcome.
 (clears throat.) Welcome, bienvenue,
 willkommen to our guests on this fine
 Spring day. Thank you for visiting
 Dunkelschloss, a place of myth,
 legend and fairy mischief. And also,
 kindly keep away from the schloss-

TANNOY VOICE 2 (PINA)
 (faint) No, you have to say 'castle'.
 Alex, just say it. We have to speak
 in English.

TANNOY VOICE 1 (ALEX)
 (Mocking English accent) 'The
 caaastle', as the structure is
 unsound and there is falling masonry.

GRETCHEN
 (perky) Greetings, welcome to
 Dunkelschloss!

EURO BEAR
 Please respect queueing system.

SCOUSER
 Excuse me love, where are the
 toilets?

GRETCHEN
 See the big toadstool? Yah?

SCOUSER
 The big toadstool, that's the
 toilets? Oh aye.

TANNOY VOICE 1 (ALEX)
 Dunkelschloss, a truly European park
 (mutters) ...where we mainly speak
 English because of cultural
 imperialism.

TANNOY VOICE 2 (PINA)
 Alex! Give me the microphone!

TANNOY VOICE 1 (ALEX)
 Pina, it's not your turn.

TANNOY VOICE 2 (PINA)
 We were told to share it!

TANNOY VOICE 1 (ALEX)
I am talking to the guests!

TANNOY VOICE 2 (PINA)
You are talking about cultural
imperialism! Give it here.

A STRUGGLE.

CHILD
Look daddy! A big bear!

EURO BEAR
(sighs) That's me.

GRETCHEN
This is Euro Bear! Say hello, Euro
Bear.

EURO BEAR
Ow.

GRETCHEN
Say hello, Eurobear!

EUROBEAR
You don't need to elbow me, Gretchen.
Hello child. Don't touch me. Small
effigies of Euro Bear can be found in
gift shop.

CHILD
You talk funny!

EURO BEAR
(aggressive) YOU talk funny.

GRETCHEN
(scolding) Thomaz!

CHILD
I don't like you!

The child runs off.

GRETCHEN
What's wrong with you today?? Do you
want me to take over? I can be
Eurobear, I don't mind.

EURO BEAR (THOMAZ)
They don't let us swap, you know
that.

GRETCHEN

But you look so unhappy.

THOMAZ

I'm wearing a giant bear head, my smile is literally stitched on.

GRETCHEN

It's your body language. Are you tired?

THOMAZ

It is 9am, I am already sweating my bollocks off, so yes, I am tired.

GRETCHEN

And you were on the night shift--

THOMAZ

(interrupts, sharp) How do you know that? I never told you that.

GRETCHEN

I just notice things. That's all.

THOMAZ

(alarmed) Well... do not notice things! No good can come of prying, Gretchen.

GRETCHEN

(sotto) Thomaz, stop being so weird, the children are watching.

CHILD 2

Mummy, that bear is angry!

THOMAZ

(angry) I am not angry! Have nice day in the park!

Child CRIES.

FATHER

Goodness! Come away, Friedrich.

GRETCHEN

(whispers) Dude. What are you doing?

THOMAZ

Fine! I will not be sad, I will be simple and happy instead.

(MORE)

THOMAZ (cont'd)
Lalala! Hello child! I skip and play!
Happy body language!

GRETCHEN
Don't overdo it.

THOMAZ
I am everybody's friend! Lalala! You
want a photo?

CHILD
No! (screams)

THOMAZ
They don't want depressed teddybear,
they don't want happy teddybear,
what do they w--

Thomaz spots someone and INHALES SHARPLY. A 'danger danger'
MUSIC CUE.

THOMAZ (cont'd)
(sotto) Oh.

GRETCHEN
What's wrong?

THOMAZ
(distracted) What? Erm. Nothing's
wrong.

GRETCHEN
What's over there?

THOMAZ
Nothing. I...

GRETCHEN
Who are you looking at?

THOMAZ
No, you're right, there is something
wrong. I just realised - I have left
my locker open. Can you go and close
it for me?

GRETCHEN
(suspicious, surprised) Your locker?

THOMAZ
Please, just go check.

GRETCHEN
(suspicious) You're not trying to get rid of me, are you?

THOMAZ
Haha, why would I do that. Please, Gretchen, hurry... someone might steal my things. I'd go myself, but the bear suit...

GRETCHEN
Alright. Alright. I'll be back in ten minutes.

THOMAZ
Thank you!

GRETCHEN
Yah yah. You can buy me an ice-cream later.

She walks off.

Thomaz waits.

THOMAZ
(sotto) Come on, then. Make your approach.

FOOTSTEPS. A man approaches.

FRENCH MAN
(stiff, sotto) I hear there is a giant earthworm that lives only in the Black Forest.

THOMAZ
(stiff, sotto) Yes. I saw one this morning.

FRENCH MAN
I would like to see it.

THOMAZ
Then I will take you. Come.

They leave together.

INT. TRUCK - DAY

Echoey, strange...

MATTY

JJ. (laughs) You alright there, JJ?

JJ

No! There's so much blood...

Matty LAUGHS again.

JJ (cont'd)

You killed her.

MATTY

Where are you going, JJ?

JJ

Oh no.

MATTY

You gonna hide somewhere? I wouldn't if I were you. I'll just find you.

JJ

No!

LORRY DRIVER

(distant) Oi, wake up.

MATTY

I've got your sister!

JJ MOANS and THRASHES.

LORRY DRIVER

OI! SWEETHEART! WAKE UP!

JJ wakes.

The RUMBLE of a lorry. 'Love Wolf' plays on the radio.

LORRY DRIVER (cont'd)

You was having a nightmare.

JJ

Oh. Sorry.

Look, can we turn the radio off?

LORRY DRIVER

Suit yourself.

Radio off.

JJ

Where are we?

LORRY DRIVER

See those pointy turrets sticking outta trees? Over there, on that hill. That's your Dunkelschloss.

JJ

Oh wow. It looks like Cinderella's castle.

LORRY DRIVER

Dracula's, more like.
Not far now. Ten miles, I reckon.

JJ

Thanks for the ride.

LORRY DRIVER

That's alright. Bit of company for me. I don't talk to many people. The loneliness of the long-distance lorry driver.

JJ

(polite) Yeah, yeah.

LORRY DRIVER

Used to get loads of hitch-hikers. Not as many now. Too dangerous. I bet your muvver doesn't like you hitch-hiking.

JJ

Ha. She doesn't care.

LORRY DRIVER

Oh aye? Doesn't know where you are, then?

JJ

Nobody does.

LORRY DRIVER

You oughta be careful. Any weirdo coulda picked you up. How long you been on the road?

JJ

(sighs) Since '89.

LORRY DRIVER

Three years! Lucky you ain't dead.

JJ

Yeah.

LORRY DRIVER

Or got yourself involved with the wrong people.

JJ

Yeahhhh. Good job I didn't do that.

LORRY DRIVER

You got me instead! I take care of the waifs and strays. Always have. (sinister chuckle)
Aha. Now then. This is a nice quiet spot.

Lorry pulls over.

JJ

Ummmm. Why are we stopping?

LORRY DRIVER

End of the road for you, kiddo.

JJ

What do you mean? There's nothing here. Just road and... forest.

Spooky music starts up.

LORRY DRIVER

The Black Forest. Beautiful in't it. A canopy so thick, it turns day to night. (chuckles)
They say it's haunted, y'know.

JJ

Haunted?

LORRY DRIVER

By the spirits of those who lost their way. Summoned forth by the forest witches. Even the devil himself has been seen dancing between the trees. And of course, there's Der Grobmann.

JJ

Der Grobmann?

LORRY DRIVER

The Tall Man. He roams the forest.
Looking for naughty children who have
strayed from their muvvers' side...

Spooky music ends abruptly as he opens her door for her.

LORRY DRIVER (cont'd)

(cheery) Right. Out you get then!

JJ

Oh!

LORRY DRIVER

Go on, jump down, I haven't got all
day.

JJ

OK...

JJ climbs down . Birdies TWEET.

LORRY DRIVER

Shut the door behind ya.

He starts the engine.

JJ

Are you... leaving me here?

LORRY DRIVER

(calls) I'm heading East, love. Your
schloss is due west, see? You'll have
to walk the last bit.

JJ

Ten miles?? Through the forest??

LORRY DRIVER

Shut the door, love!

JJ

Wait! My suitcase! Give me my
suitcase! It's behind the seat!

LORRY DRIVER

Oh yeah.
(grunts) Coo, it's a bloody monster,
this. (more grunts) Catch!

He throws her suitcase, it THUMPS into her. She shouts in
pain as it hits her shins.

JJ
Oof! Bloody hell! Gahh, it caught me
right on my bloody shin!

LORRY DRIVER
Good luck, love!

The HYRAULICS HISS as he prepares to move off.

LORRY DRIVER (cont'd)
(calls) Oh! And if you meet a bear,
make yourself small! Don't run!

JJ
Did you say bear?? There are bears??

He drives off. Dawning realisation for JJ...

JJ (cont'd)
Oh no. Wait! Wait! Don't go! My coat!
No! I left my coat on the seat and...

A CRACK of thunder. RAIN starts up, pitter-pattering gently.

JJ (cont'd)
(small voice) ...all my money is in
the pocket.
BLOODY BASTARDING HELL!

INT. CHILDREN OF EUROPE RIDE, HILDA'S OFFICE

Faintly, in the background, you can hear the singing dolls
of the Elves of Europe ride. Hilda's office is 'behind the
scenes' of the ride.

Hilda and Jenkins are on a phonecall. Both intense, angry,
snappy.

JENKINS
Hilda, I assure you, we're doing
everything in our power to--

HILDA
Hang on. I'll close the door. Can't
concentrate with those bloody elves.

Hilda crosses her office to close the door, muting the
Elves.

HILDA (cont'd)
Jenkins, we need to find it.

JENKINS

Look, Hilda, we're trying but it'll take time. We don't even know where the shipment went missing. Maybe it never crossed the Channel.

HILDA

Of course it did, Jenkins. The convoy left Dunkelschloss on Tuesday nigh, it arrived at Calais intact. It disappeared somewhere between the docks and Mockery Manor.

JENKINS

Who told you that?

HILDA

Who do you think? My men, of course.

JENKINS

Maybe they're lying.

HILDA

Don't be ridiculous. You think they have what it takes to steal from *me*? From Wizzard?

JENKINS

They might've been tempted. A spontaneous crime of opportunity.

HILDA

Temptation is one thing. Organisation is quite another. One does not slip 15 vending machines and a rollercoaster into one's pocket when nobody's watching--

JENKINS

(interrupts) --An *infants'* rollercoaster--

HILDA

Still a bloody big piece of equipment!

JENKINS

Hmmm. Regardless. It's worth questioning them again, surely.

HILDA
 Jenkins, I will say this one last time; my men had nothing to do with this. Perhaps you should look at YOUR people a little more closely.

JENKINS
 I don't know what you're insinuating--

HILDA
 Talking of which... *Parker* rang a few days back.

JENKINS
 (surprise) *Parker*? What did he want?

HILDA
 He wanted me to give his ex-girlfriend a summer job.

JENKINS
 I beg your pardon?

HILDA
 She's coming any day now.
 (beat)
 Well? Who is she?

JENKINS
 I have no idea.

Hilda LAUGHS, without mirth.

HILDA
 Don't pretend you didn't put him up to it.

JENKINS
 Why would I... I don't know anything about this!

HILDA
 (imitates Jenkins) 'Oh Hilda, I am so confused, just a harmless old man.'

JENKINS
 I'm only sixty-eight.

HILDA
 So tell me, what kind of 'summer job' should I give this girl?
 (MORE)

HILDA (cont'd)
 Front of house? Or something more
behind the scenes?

JENKINS
 Look, we're going off-topic. We need
 to discuss the missing shipment...

HILDA
 This is about the missing shipment.
 Are you sending this girl to spy on
 me?

JENKINS
 Good heavens! This is preposterous!

HILDA
 Is it? Maybe you don't trust me.
 Maybe you think I stole my own
 shipment.

JENKINS
 And why would you do that? I won't
 pay until I receive it; we're both
 losing out here.
 And as for this mysterious girl...

HILDA
 Oh don't worry, my dear Jenkins. I'll
 put her to good use. I'll show her
everything. (icy) She might be more
 use than you at catching the thieves.

JENKINS
 Now look here, Hilda, she's just some
 innocent bystander--

Hilda puts the phone down.

EXT. BLACK FOREST - DAY

JJ is hiking through the forest. She is very out of breath,
 and is talking to herself as she walks.

A CROW CAWS. FLAPS.

JJ
 (calls) Yeah, Mr Crow! I see you! You
 don't scare me. (mutters) Even if
 you've been following me for bloody
 miles.

(MORE)

JJ (cont'd)

Do you think I'm gonna die here, Mr Crow? Gonna pick my bines? Eat my eyeballs?

Oh man, shut up, JJ. Stop talking to yourself.

But if I don't talk to myself, I'll hear the forest, and the forest has a lot to bloody say.

CAW CAW.

GO AWAY, PLEASE! I DON'T NEED A SPOOKY BIRD COMPANION, THANK YOU.

It CAWS.

Or maybe it's fine. It's not a bear. Or a madman with a knife. Or a witch. Or the devil. Just a lovely, natural birdie. Just a silly old crow.

The CROW CAWS very loudly, close-by. JJ gives a little SHRIEK.

JJ (cont'd)

Breathe. Breathe. After everything that's happened, a bloody bird gives me a heart attack. A bird, or der grobmann in bird disguise...

shut up, JJ.

GO AWAY! STOP FOLLOWING ME!

CAWS. FLAPPY wings. Then a SOUND EFFECT to suggest it flies into a tree and disappears. CAW CAW CAW C-- (cuts off)

JJ (cont'd)

(scared) What the...

Did it just... fly into a tree and disappear??

Mr Crow? Mr Crow??

I did not see that. I'm seeing things. I'm just hallucinating things... from dehydration or something.

The crow CAWS, but it's soft, and echoes inside the tree.

JJ (cont'd)

(soft, scared) I can hear you... where did you go?

(MORE)

JJ (cont'd)
 (relieved) Ohhh, it's a hole! The tree's hollow! Haha! He flew into a hole! That's it! That's all! Oh thank god! Hollow!

She KNOCKS on the hollow trunk.

JJ (cont'd)
 See?
 (thinking) Hollow.
 Maybe I could hide you in here?
 Maybe that's what you're telling me, Mr Crow. You're helping me. I could hide it here, where no-one would see. Come back and get it later.

Mockery theme starts.

JJ (cont'd)
 I've got something for you, Mr Tree. You go in there, ladies and gentlemen. Nice and snuggly. No-one will find you in there. And I'll come back for you when I figure out how to turn you into cash.

End of episode 1

CREDITS

Mockery Manor was written and directed by Lindsay Sharman. Music, sound design and editing by Laurence Owen. Hayley Evenett was JJ. Laurence Owen was Parker, Jenkins, the lorry driver, the mysterious French man and additional voices. Lindsay Sharman was Hilda, Margot, the telephone operator and additional voices. Abbie Eastwood was Gretchen, the advert voice-over and the little girl. And Alasdair Beckett-King was Thomaz, aka 'Eurobear'. For more information on our other two podcasts, Madame Magenta and The Ballad of Anne & Mary, visit longcatmedia.com or follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook at Mockery Manor, and also at Long Cat Media. This podcast is supported by our wonderful Ko-Fi patrons.

(MORE)

CREDITS (cont'd)

If you'd like to support the show and help us keep going, visit our website or go to Ko-Fi.com/longcatmedia.