

TRANSCRIPT - J'ACCUSE

ORDER: GROG, SIMONE, JENNIFER, WALTER, DEBBIE, OWEN, SENIOR
MANAGEMENT

INT. TROUSERS MEOWSERS MEGACOASTER

ASH

Grog... it was you!

GROG

You what? You think I kidnapped
Ralph?

ASH

Well, at first I thought you'd killed
him. I thought you'd argued in the
woods, and you'd pushed him, and he
fell and hit his head on the hull of
the space ship or a tree, and when
you saw what you'd done you panicked
and rolled his body into one of the
tunnel hatches. Or something like
that, anyway.
But now we know he's alive... well, I
still think it's you.

GROG

Why?

ASH

Because you needed Ralph to help you
steal a Mockery lorry. You knew that
if you did it on your own, they'd
call the police. But if they thought
Ralph was involved, they'd write it
off. You'd get away with it, and
split the proceeds between the two of
you. Because Mockery *protects* Ralph.
As you said in your encrypted note:
they owe him.
But you said no, didn't you, Ralph?

RALPH

Aye. You're my pal, Grog, but I don't
appreciate you trying to drag me back
into that world again.

GROG

Dunno what you're talking about. I
never planned to steal anything.

ASH

Sure! And I suppose you didn't deliberately poison the spotted dick either, did you? So that you could take Simon's place!

GROG

You're literally just talking gibberish now, ain't you.

ASH

When Ralph refused to help you steal the lorry, you realised that if you kidnapped Ralph and made it look like he'd stolen the lorry with you, Mockery would let you get away with it! And there'd be no need to split the proceeds!

DAVINA

Seems like a lot of fuss just to steal a lorry, but OK! It makes sense! Good work, Ash!

GROG

Except, like Jennifer, I was literally in the final scare scene with you. You saw me with your own eyes. Wouldn't I have been busy KIDNAPPING RALPH at that time? Hmm?

ASH

Oh. Errr... maybe you kidnapped him then came back for the final scene! Yeah!

GROG

If your little theory was correct and I'd kidnapped him, wouldn't I have *immediately* stolen the lorry and disappeared? Why would I return to work? Why would I still be here? Why would I tape a walkie-talkie to the wall and talk to the bugged? Also, didn't you say that someone stole a walkie-talkie from Baba Yaga's in order to lure Ralph into the tunnels? Correct? Well, why would I need to steal a walkie-talkie? I already have my own walkie-talkie.

DAVINA

Ohhh right, yeah. That makes sense. Looks like he's in the clear.

(MORE)

DAVINA (cont'd)
Good theory though, Ash! Really goof.
I thought you had it there.

ASH
Dammit.

DAVINA
But you shouldn't judge a book by its
cover.
I think it's pretty significant that
the kidnapper's been talking to you,
Ralph. Based on that alone I know who
did it.
But don't let me steal your thunder,
Ash. Anyone else you'd like to
accuse?

GROG
Honestly, you steal one lorry and
people start accusing you off
kidnapping people.

INT. TROUSERS MEOWSERS MEGACOASTER

ASH
Simone... it was you!

SIMONE
Me?? You think I kidnapped Ralph?

ASH
Well, at first I thought you'd killed
him. I thought you'd argued in the
woods, and you'd pushed him, and he
fell and hit his head on the hull of
the space ship or a tree, and when
you saw what you'd done you panicked
and rolled his body into one of the
tunnel hatches. Or something like
that, anyway.
But now we know he's alive... well, I
still think it's you.

SIMONE
Why? Because he rejected me? My ego
isn't that fragile, Ash. Bloody hell,
I can't believe you think I'd *hurt*
someone because they turned me down!
I thought we were friends!

ASH

I'm sorry Simone, but I can't ignore the facts. You had both the means and the opportunity to do this!

SIMONE

Nope.

ASH

Yes you did.

SIMONE

No I didn't.

ASH

You didn't?

SIMONE

Nope. Think about it: someone stole a walkie-talkie from Baba Yaga's in order to lure Ralph into the tunnels. Correct? Well, why would I need to steal a walkie-talkie? I already have my own walkie-talkie.

ASH

Maybe the stolen walkie-talkie has nothing to do with Ralph's disappearance. In which case, you still had the means: which is, by your own admission, a walkie-talkie.

SIMONE

OK, fine. Let's say the stolen walkie-talkie has nothing to do with this. It's a case of: right place, wrong time. Yes, I was in the woods when Ralph went missing. And yes, I was a few minutes late getting to my next tour group by fifteen, twenty minutes. Conceivably, in that time, I could've argued with Ralph, accidentally killed him, and hidden the body. It would've been tight, but I SUPPOSE that could've happened. What I did NOT have time to do is lure him into the tunnels, knock him out, take him across the park to the Trousers Meowsers Megacoaster, and question him for several hours.

ASH

A-ha! How did you know that was how it happened?! Eh!

RALPH

Oh, I told everyone just before you got here.

ASH

Oh.

RALPH

Sorry. Probably shouldn't have done that.

SIMONE

So, looks like I have the means, and the world's weakest motive, but no opportunity.

DAVINA

Oh dear. I think Simone's in the clear. Anyone else you'd like to accuse?

INT. TROUSERS MEOWSERS MEGACOASTER

ASH

Jennifer... it was you!

JENNIFER

Me?? You think I kidnapped Ralph?

ASH

Well, at first I thought you'd killed him. I thought you'd argued in the woods, and you'd pushed him, and he fell and hit his head on the hull of the space ship or a tree, and when you saw what you'd done you panicked and rolled his body into one of the tunnel hatches. Or something like that, anyway.
But now we know he's alive... well, I still think it's you.

JENNIFER

Why? Because I don't like him?
Because he was gonna dob me in for not selling merchandise and I might lose my job? Or because Simone fancies him? I mean, yeah, I don't want my supervisor dating my sister!
(MORE)

JENNIFER (cont'd)
But I wouldn't KIDNAP a man for
asking her out! I'm not insane!

ASH
Maybe your duel love for theme parks
and your sister drove you insane,
Jennifer.

DAVINA
Pbbbt! Sorry! I'm not laughing. It's
just... quite a funny accusation,
that's all. It's a bit silly.

JENNIFER
Yeah, REALLY strong motive, Ash. Well
done. Good detective work!

ASH
Ok, you're being sarcastic, but...
you had both the means and the
opportunity!

JENNIFER
(sighs) I was literally in the final
scare scene with you. You saw me with
your own eyes. Do you think I
kidnapped him, and then came back for
the final scare scene?

ASH
Um. Yes! I do!

DAVINA
Ohhhh, is that what happened!

JENNIFER
This is so stupid.
Do you REALLY think I have a strong
enough motive for pre-meditated
kidnap? What would I even want from
him?? Ransom? He doesn't have any
money. So, was it for, then? To
threaten him?
Ralph, did your kidnapper say
anything about me? Did he say "stay
away from the Hughes sisters or
else..!"

RALPH
No. He mainly asked a load of
questions about Mockery. The kind of
work I used to do, that sort of
thing.

DAVINA

Oh that is a VERY important piece of the puzzle, I'd say. I think I know who the culprit is. But don't let me steal your thunder, Ash. Anyone else you'd like to accuse?

INT. TROUSERS MEOWSERS MEGACOASTER

ASH

Walter... it was you!

WALTER

Me?? You think I kidnapped Ralph?

ASH

Well, at first I thought you'd killed him. I thought you'd argued in the woods, and you pushed him, and he fell and hit his head on the hull of the space ship or a tree and when you saw what you'd done, you panicked and rolled his body into one of the tunnel hatches. Or something like that, anyway.
But now we know he's alive... well, I still think you're the culprit.

WALTER

Why? Because he humiliated me at the Lake House party? Because he was gonna get the transcendently beautiful Jennifer in trouble for slacking off work?

JENNIFER

Ew.

ASH

Yeah! Exactly! And don't forget, you blackmailed Ralph by threatening to reveal his criminal past!

WALTER

Well, I wrote the note, yeah... but I didn't give it to him. It was just a cathartic writing exercise.

DAVINA

Too chicken to threaten him, more like. Ash, are you saying that Walter kidnapped Ralph for revenge?

ASH

Yes!

OK, the motive's not strong, but look at the means and opportunity! Walter had both. He stole the tunnel keys from your office so he could move through the park unseen.

DAVINA

Oooh, didya, you little BLEEP.

WALTER

It's easier than pushing a trolley through the crowds!

ASH

A trolley... or a wheeled cage, like the kind used to transport Ralph! The kind of cage that you use every day for work!

WALTER

Oh please. Everyone's got access to the cages. There's at least two in every food and drink station across the park.

As for 'opportunity': as my end-of-night report will attest, at the time Ralph was being kidnapped, I was responding to a false clean-up call from the Village.

ASH

Says YOU. A likely story!

WALTER

Have you asked the village witches? They'll back me up. Erich Michaels was with me the whole time.

Pause.

ASH

Ah shBLEEPit.

DAVINA

Embarrassing. I think Walter's in the clear. Anyone else you'd like to accuse?

INT. TROUSERS MEOWSERS MEGACOASTER

ASH

Nurse Debbie... it was you!

DEBBIE

Oh, how funny. You think I kidnapped your friend?

ASH

Well, at first I thought you'd killed him. I thought you'd approached in the woods, and you'd pushed him, and he fell and hit his head on the hull of the spaceship or a tree, and when you saw what you'd done you panicked and rolled his body into one of the tunnel hatches. Or something like that, anyway.
But now we know he's alive... I still think you're the culprit!

DEBBIE

Why? Because I had the opportunity? Because I was right there in the woods when your friend went missing? Tell me; what's my motive? I don't even know him. I'm just a gal who loves Halloween, and marches to the beat of my own drum, and you've decided that must make me guilty of something? Oh honey. Projection, perhaps? It's like looking in a *crystal ball* and seeing your future, isn't it? Don't you like what you see?

DAVINA

Well, that got weird quickly. I don't think this lady kidnapped Ralph, love. D'you wanna accuse someone else?

INT. TROUSERS MEOWSERS MEGACOASTER

ASH

Owen... it was you!

OWEN

Ex-squeeze me! You think I kidnapped Ralph?

ASH

Well, at first I thought you'd killed him. I thought you'd argued in the woods, and you'd pushed him, and he fell and hit his head on the hull of the space ship or a tree, and when you saw what you'd done you panicked and rolled his body into one of the tunnel hatches. Or something like that, anyway.
But now we know he's alive... I still think you're the culprit.

OWEN

Why? Because I'm in love with him!? Because he persists in rejecting both me and my art??
No! Despite the deep hurt he has inflicted upon my heart and soul, I would never hurt him. Yes, I put him on a PIP and tried to get him fired, but only so that he'd be free to be in my filum! But I'm glad it didn't work. Because even if he was free of Mockery, he'd refuse to work with me again. Because he hates me.
Why, Ralph! Why!! We were once so close. I was your beloved mentor--

RALPH

No you weren't.

OWEN

--and you were my muse!
Yes, yes, I admit it! I've known Ralph for years! We first met when I was the lead on an Arts Council England project, designed to awaken a more tender spirit in the culturally bereft. I directed prison inmates in a plethora of Revenge Tragedies.

DAVINA

Is this relevant?

OWEN

Ralph and Grog were cell-mates in HMP Burnley when I cast Ralph as my Duchess--

ASH

Um! Sorry to interrupt. But I wanted to say that you, Owen had the means and opportunity to do this!

OWEN

I did! I admit it! I am free to roam the park! Free to do as I please, unsupervised!
But to what end would I kidnap Ralph? Out of thwarted love? Out of frustration and madness? As the climax in my very own Revenge Tragedy?

ASH

I mean, yeah.

OWEN

No. I'm sorry, but character must align with action. Am I a man to coldly, methodically premeditate a kidnapping? Or am I man to EXPLODE with passion and accidentally kill someone with a chair? Exactly.

Also, if I was the sort to kidnap a love interest, would I really bring him HERE? This dingy little room? And the megacoaster's open to the public over the Christmas period, is it not? That's only a month away! Wouldn't I have taken him somewhere more private? Somewhere I could keep him long-term?

RALPH

Erm, also, the kidnapper hasn't said anything romantic to me. Or about drama or art, or anything like that.

DAVINA

Right. I think Owen's in the clear.

OWEN

You're bloody right I am!

DAVINA

Anyone else you'd like to accuse, Ash?

INT. TROUSERS MEOWSERS MEGACOASTER

ASH

Davina... it was you! Along with
Parker and JJ!

DAVINA

Haha! What? You think we kidnapped
Ralph? Why the BLEEP would we do
that?

ASH

Because he was a loose end. Because
he knows about Mockery's dark past.

DAVINA

Right. So you think we kidnapped
Ralph, brought him here... and did
what, exactly?

RALPH

Hmmm. Wait a minute, Davina. The
kidnapper HAS been asking me
questions about Mockery. About why I
ended up in prison. The kind of work
I used to do. That sorta thing.

ASH

See! You were testing him, to see if
he'd squeal!

DAVINA

And if he did, would we clonk him on
the head and bury him in the woods?

ASH

Maybe!

DAVINA

I mean, it's an interesting theory.
So well done for that. And the truth
is, Ralph did work for Mockery back
in the day, when an unsavoury element
ran operations. His name was Jenkins.
He's dead now.

RALPH

Davina...

DAVINA

It's OK, babes. No-one here wants to
get you in trouble. Well... mostly
no-one.

(MORE)

DAVINA (cont'd)

So yeah, Ralph worked for Jenkins and went to prison as a result of following orders.

RALPH

I sold the contents of a stolen Dunkelschloss lorry and then drove it into a lake.

ASH

Why?

DAVINA

It's complicated. But at the time, right, most of us knew nothing of what was going on. It was years later that I found out. Anyway, everything's above board nowadays, Ralph's on the straight and narrow, and as reparation, we look after him and a number of the others who were basically kids when Jenkins absorbed them into his criminal enterprise. But we have absolutely no reason to hurt any of them. OK? Now accuse someone else before I lose my temper.
