

Mockery Manor SEASON 2
Episode 4
'Find the Fun'
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 5: Find the Fun.

EXT. RUMPELSTILTSKIN'S RUMPUS LAND

Carnival music plays.

Thomaz and JJ are walking through Rumpus Land, a goblin-heavy carnival area.

RUMPELSTILTSKIN P.A.
Attention please! Rumpelstiltskin's
Acrobatics show will start in ten
minutes in the big top. Heeheehee!

GRETCHEN
(calls) Roll up! Roll up to Hoopla
First Born, win a prize!

THOMAZ
I need to get my car keys from
locker. Wait here.

JJ
Wait! Thomaz!
Leave the vodka.

THOMAZ
Ah. Good plan! Get the party started!
Wooo. Ha.
(sighs) Here.

JJ
Cheers.

Thomaz walks off. JJ takes a swig of vodka and gags.

JJ (cont'd)
Ugh.

Gretchen spots JJ.

GRETCHEN
JJ, is that you? JJ! Over here!

JJ
(mutters) Not now, Gretchen.

GRETCHEN
(calls) JJ! It's Gretchen. JJ! I give you free toss? JJ! Over here! JJ! JJ! JJ!

JJ sighs. She walks over.

JJ
(calls) Hi Gretchen.

GRETCHEN
Hi JJ! You want to have a go?

JJ
Yeah, alright.

GRETCHEN
Here: take a hoop. Throw it over--

JJ
...the creepy doll head -

GRETCHEN
...the creepy doll head, and win a prize!

JJ
Yep, got it.
(mutters) Ah, theme parks. You know what my life was really lacking the last three years? Creepy dolls.

With a small GRUNT, she throws a frisbee. It THUDS against a doll and a BUZZER sounds.

GRETCHEN
Ooh, so close! So, JJ, I was hoping to bump into you again...

JJ
Yeah, you're basically stalking me, Gretchen. I have noticed.

GRETCHEN
I'm just trying to be friendly.

JJ throws again, misses. The BUZZER sounds.

JJ

Ah, shit. Give me another hoop.

GRETCHEN

So... what's it like living in the schloss?

JJ

Great. I feel like Nosferatu.

GRETCHEN

Yah, so cool!

JJ throws again, hits a man walking by.

MAN

Ahh!

JJ

Sorry!

MAN

Gott in himmel!

GRETCHEN

So, umm, are you allowed to have friends stay over?

JJ

(confused) Friends?
Do you mean *you*?

GRETCHEN

Yah!

JJ

You want a sleepover in the schloss??

GRETCHEN

A sleepover! What a fun idea! I'll bring marshmallows! How about tonight?

JJ

What? No. That wasn't an invitation.
(twigs) Hang on. You just want to snoop around in the park again.

GRETCHEN

Shhh! You don't know who's listening.
(whispers) Yah. They've tightened security. I can't get in on my own.

JJ
(impatient sigh) Gretchen--

GRETCHEN
JJ, I will tell you what's going on -
what I *think* is going on - if you
swear on your life you will keep it
to yourself.

JJ
No. No thanks. I don't want to know.
Hoop please.

GRETCHEN
You are so lacking in curiosity.

JJ
Just here for a quiet life, Gretchen.
No more drama. Gonna keep my head
down, get a nest egg together, and
open a cafe on a beach... somewhere
hot. Which is exactly what I'm going
to tell my sister.

GRETCHEN
Mmm. I understand. Actually, no no, I
don't understand, but... please JJ,
can I stay in the schloss tonight? I
will only slip out for an hour, maybe
two. Last time, after I left you at
the toilets, I almost got caught. I
had to hide in the mermaid grotto on
Hans Christian island for *hours*. If I
have access to the schloss, I'll be
safe. And more comfortable too.

JJ
Ha. Comfortable! I have two words for
you, Gretchen. Big. Rats. Oh, and no
toilet. No hot water. And weird
noises all night. And hundreds of
crows--

GRETCHEN
(excited) Noises? What kind of
noises? Are they coming from the
cellars? I've suspected for a while
that the schloss is the centre of--

JJ throws a hoop over a doll's head. VICTORIOUS automatic
buzzer sounds.

JJ

Ha ha! Yesss! Did you see that? I ricocheted off the ceiling! Trick shot!

GRETCHEN

(murmurs) Yes, very good.

JJ

What's the prize? Do I get one of those giant Eurobears?

GRETCHEN

No, that's only if you get four in a row which is literally impossible because the game is rigged. You, you get this.

JJ

A small plastic spinning wheel.

GRETCHEN

It's a pencil sharpener. And look, the spindle is a small pencil!

JJ

Oh that is quite cool actually.

GRETCHEN

(whispers) Look, JJ, why don't you join me in the park tonight? I will tell you everything I know about--

JJ

(interrupts) What? No! No, I don't want to! Why are you trying to drag me into this - whatever this is.

GRETCHEN

Because for reasons I cannot fathom, Hilda has literally put you in the centre of it all, and if you stay ignorant you might stumble into something, and maybe you will disappear, just like my--

JJ

Why do you trust me?

GRETCHEN

(sighs) My gut tells me I can. I sense these things, JJ. I am very intuitive. My gut never fails me.

(MORE)

GRETCHEN (cont'd)
 (happy to see him) Thomaz, hi! What
 are you doing here??

Thomaz has returned on silent feet.

THOMAZ
 Oh... hello Gretchen.

GRETCHEN
 (teasing) You still haven't bought me
 that ice cream.

THOMAZ
 No, I haven't.
 JJ, shall we go? Party party.

JJ
 Yeah. Bye Gretchen.

GRETCHEN
 Oh. Bye bye. (calls) See you tonight,
 JJ!

JJ
 No! No you won't! I've got too much
 going on. You're on your own.
 Come on, Thomaz.

They leave.

GRETCHEN
 (mutters) Huh. We'll see about that.

The CARNIVAL MUSIC and the CROWD NOISE swells.

INT. PRISON, SECURE UNIT

A SECURITY DOOR CLANGS SHUT.

Matty LAUGHS.

MATTY
 Well hello there, Parker. Are you
 alright, now?

PARKER
 (nervous) Y'alright, mate! You look
 well!

He scrapes a chair out. Sits.

Parker clears his throat several times.

PARKER (cont'd)
 (hoarse) Sorry, mouth's a bit dry.
 Bloody pollen innit! Springtime, eh?
 Bloody flowers, spaffing up me
 nostrils! (clears throat)
 Thanks for agreeing to see me. How's
 it going? You alright? You been well,
 yeah? Good?

MATTY
 Oh sure, grand, grand, can't
 complain.

PARKER
 Great! Wicked. Not too bad in here,
 then? I mean, obviously it's not,
 like, The Ritz, but, erm--

MATTY
 No. It's not too bad. Could be much
 worse. You know why?

Long beat.

PARKER
 Oh. Thought you were just gonna tell
 me. Err. Why?

MATTY
 Because every morning I wake up and I
 choose my attitude. I say to myself,
 'I'm going to find the fun!'. And you
 know what?

PARKER
 What?

MATTY
 There's always fun to be found. Even
 in here. (sinister chuckle)

PARKER
 (unsure) Great! Great. Good... good
 to hear.

MATTY
 Listen to me, chatting away. But how
 are you, Parker? How's Mockery Manor?

PARKER
 Yeah, yeah, yeah, really good.

MATTY

Grand. And congrats on your promotion! How's that going?

PARKER

Oh thanks, well, yeah, it's a lot of pressure but... (alarm) hang on, how do you know about that?

MATTY

Ohhh, it's common sense. Keen lad like you: loves the park, knows all the right people. And look at those lovely shiny shoes. (sniffs) Real leather? Smells like promotion to me!

PARKER

Yeah. I guess so.

MATTY

But you didn't come here to rub your success in my face, did you? You're not that kind of arsehole. Not yet. So what do you want, pal?

PARKER

Erm. Yeah. Right. So, yeah, I suppose I'm hoping that you, er... I suppose I'm hoping that you can tell me something, I suppose. Put me mind at rest about something. Now that I'm here, it feels a bit weird.

MATTY

Awww. Feeling vulnerable?

PARKER

(defensive) No. No!

MATTY

Come on then, tough lad. What can old Matty-boy help you with?

Beat.

PARKER

Maybe this wasn't a good idea. Yeah, this... I don't want to do this.

Parker stands. Chair SCRAPES back. WALKS to door.

MATTY

Your dad.

Parker stops.

PARKER

What?

MATTY

May he rest in peace. That's why you're here, isn't it?

PARKER

How did you know?

Parker returns to the table.

MATTY

I never met your dad. When did he pass, again? 1982? '83? Yeah. I was still in Ireland then. Still just a kid - 12, 13 years old. With no idea that such a magical place as Mockery Manor even existed. So why would you think I'd know anything about your da?

PARKER

Because YOUR dad ordered his crony to kill him.

A beat. Then Matty LAUGHS.

PARKER (cont'd)

Why are you laughing?

MATTY

My dad. Ha. That sounds so wrong, calling him that. Daddy Norton. Sweet old papa Norton. But who might his 'crony' be, Parker? I'm not sure I know who you're talking about.

PARKER

You must know. Smithy.

MATTY

Smithy?

PARKER

Oh come on! Norton bumped off all those people. One by one, down the years. And it was Smithy what helped him. Couple of bloody psychos!

(MORE)

PARKER (cont'd)

And one of Norton's targets was my dad. And it was Smithy wot bumped him off.

MATTY

Smithy. Smithy. I never met a Smithy. Oh, but the name rings a bell. Let me think. Yeah, yeah yeah! Norton did tell me something about this.

PARKER

What? What did he say?

MATTY

Well! (pause)
Actually, why hear it second hand? Go talk to Norton.

PARKER

I can't. He wouldn't see me.

MATTY

Awww. Really? I suppose not. He must be scared.

PARKER

Scared? Of what? Me??

MATTY

(taunting) Maybe I'm scared too. Ohhhh! I can't tell you anything, Parker, or the big bad wolf will get me! Hahaha!

PARKER

Matty, please. Stop playing games.

MATTY

Just finding the fun!

PARKER

(explodes) This ain't 'fun'!
Did Smithy tamper with the ride that killed my dad or not? Did he? Tell me!

MATTY

But you just told me that's exactly what he did... so why do you need me to confirm it?

PARKER

Just say if it's true!

MATTY

What are you really asking, Parker?
What are you scared of?

PARKER

I'm not scared of anything!

MATTY

You sure about that?

A MEMORY from season 1 rises, with 'Give Us a Smile Love'
playing in the background -

PARKER SEASON 1

And you know what else that means...
(echo)

JENKINS SEASON 1

Don't, Parker.

PARKER SEASON 1

We got the wrong man! Jenkins, we
killed the wrong man. (echo)

SONG

Bury your troubles and give us a
smile.

The memory fades.

MATTY

Maybe this Smithy fella never worked
for me da. Maybe he never hurt a fly.
What did you do to Smithy, Parker?

PARKER

No, no, no, don't ask me that.

MATTY

Hoo hoo hoo! What a heavy load to
bear. All those years with his blood
on your hands... but at least it was
righteous vengeance... except was it?
How can you rest until you know for
sure? What a heavy load to bear.

PARKER

Tell me, then. Help me.

MATTY

You know, I am so curious; where's
Smithy buried, Parker? In the forest?
In the park?

PARKER

I don't know.

MATTY

Oh of course, of course... when was this, '82, '83? You wouldn't have been the one burying him, you were a kid at the time. So... Jenkins. Now I'm really curious where the body is. Maybe, I dunno, it'd do you good too, to find out. To pay your respects?

PARKER

To get closure?

MATTY

Sure. Absolutely. Closure. I tell you what, go ask Jenkins where Smithy's body is. Then come back and tell me. And then - and only then - I'll tell you everything Norton told me about Smithy, and why he killed your da.

Synth music.

INT. DODGY ERIC'S SQUAT

TECHNO MUSIC plays on a boom box. FOOTSTEPS.

Dodgy Eric has brought a fellow crusty back to his flat.

DODGY ERIC

Alright, picture the scene: I'd sold out of everything. So I'm thinking 'oh come on Eric, what ya gonna do', so I goes into the bogs and I use a toothpick to carve little smiley faces into some parma violets.

CRUSTY BIRD

Eric...

DODGY ERIC

Sold the whole tube for fifty quid.

CRUSTY BIRD

Eric...

DODGY ERIC

Imagine that! Heh heh eh!

CRUSTY BIRD

Eric, you've got company.

Eric turns the boombox off.

DODGY ERIC

Hey. Who are you? How'd you get in 'ere?

BOHDANKO

You have no lock. And no door.

Sinister gangster music.

BOHDANKO (cont'd)

If security is a priority, might I recommend something sturdier than a beaded curtain?

CRUSTY BIRD

Eric, Eric, I think I'll go.

DODGY ERIC

No, darlin', darlin'...

BOHDANKO

Let her. We need to talk.

DODGY ERIC

Talk about what? I didn't sell you any parma violets, did I?

BOHDANKO

Someone you know has something that belongs to us.

Sinister gangster music.

BOHDANKO (cont'd)

And you are going to tell us where they are.

DODGY ERIC

Oh, bollocks.

Gangster music swells.

INT. CUCKOO HOTEL

BETTE

You're not supposed to come here, JJ. Not until you've finished the camera roll. Didn't you read the letter??

JJ
 Yes, I did. It explained nothing,
 Bette!

FOOTSTEPS. The SWISH of curtains as Bette draws them closed.

JJ (cont'd)
 What are you doing??

BETTE
 Someone might see you in here.

JJ
 What, like a pigeon? We're on the
 fourth floor.

BETTE
 Did anyone follow you? How did you
 get here? The bus?

JJ
 No, I got a lift.

BETTE
 You got a lift! In a car?? Who from??
 Are you *trying* to jeopardise the
 mission?

JJ
 (amused) Ohhhh! Ohhhh, I see!

BETTE
 What are you grinning about?

JJ
 You're loving all this cloak and
 dagger stuff. You think you're James
 Bond, with your spy camera and your
 wig.

BETTE
 James Bond doesn't wear a wig. And
 this isn't a wig!

JJ
 And Mockery Manor isn't the Secret
 Service!

BETTE
 No. I hear the Secret Service doesn't
 pay very well. Whereas *this*...
 Jenkins is paying us a lot of money,
 JJ. IF you co-operate.

JJ

He is? Huh. Well that's interesting. What are we even doing, though? Why do they want tapped phones and photos of lorries?

BETTE

Industrial espionage, I assume.

JJ

What's that?

BETTE

You know, where you find out a rival company's secrets and, I don't know, use it to boost your own business... I don't know how it works! Who cares, anyway? Let's just do this and take the cash. I need it, JJ. I really need it. So please, can you just fall into line for once?

JJ

Why do you need money so badly? I can help you out, if you need it?

BETTE

Oh yeah, you're rolling in it, are you? Miss Moneybags.

JJ

I might be... soon.

BETTE

Oh God. What does that mean?

JJ

It's best you don't know.

BETTE

JJ, I think we've learned by now: family secrets have a habit of exploding in our faces.

JJ

It's not a *secret*. It's just safer this way. I'm protecting you by...

BETTE

...by keeping me in the dark? Another thing that tends to go badly wrong.

JJ

Like you don't do that too.

BETTE

I know I do! But I'm trying not to.
I'm more open now.

JJ

Oh yeah?

BETTE

Yes. The ashram - before it got a bit... cult-like - it gave me space to think about everything that happened. To realise the importance of being open and generous with one's spirit.

JJ

Oh, you're a hippy now? A hippy spy looking to get rich quick.

BETTE

And what are you, then? Because I barely recognised you in Thailand. Constantly whizzed off your tits, looking for the next thrill...

JJ

So you ran away from me. That was your big solution!

BETTE

I asked you to come with me! I literally *begged* you, JJ!

Beat.

JJ

(sulky) OK, yeah, you did. Whatever. It sounded boring. Stupid ashram.

A CREAK.

BETTE

(whisper) What was that?

JJ

What?

Bette STRIDES to the door and flings it open. Thomaz EXCLAIMS.

BETTE

Aha! Who are you?

THOMAZ

Ohhh. Oh dear.

JJ

It's OK. It's just Thomaz.

THOMAZ

Just Thomaz!

BETTE

You know this man?

JJ

He gave me a lift here. I thought you were waiting in the car?

THOMAZ

Aiii. Oh, how'd I get here? OK, I go back to car now.

BETTE

No! Get in, before someone sees you.

THOMAZ

Oh yes. OK. OK.

Thomaz enters. Door SHUTS.

JJ

Thomaz, why did you follow me into the hotel?

THOMAZ

Erm... Because.... because...
ahhhh...

JJ

You're trying to think of an excuse!

THOMAZ

No, hold on! It's coming to me...

JJ

You are, aren't you?

THOMAZ

No! (sighs) Yes. Maybe I am not very good at this.

JJ

Good at what?

BETTE

Sssh JJ. I'll handle this.

(MORE)

BETTE (cont'd)
 (sweet) Thomaz, allow me to tell you
 what's going on here. I am Bette,
 JJ's sister.

THOMAZ
 Your sister? Ohhh yes. I see
 resemblance.

BETTE
 I am visiting her. That's all.
 Nothing else. Just a fun family get-
 together.

JJ
 (whispers) Bette, he might've heard
 you through the door. About the
 industrial espionage?

THOMAZ
 And I can hear you now.

BETTE
 For God's sake!

THOMAZ
 'Industrial espionage'. Is that what
 this is about? So that's why Hilda
 wanted me to follow you, huh?

BETTE
 Great! This is going *brilliantly*! I
 only arrived in Germany yesterday,
 and my cover's blown already!

JJ
 Thomaz, did you just say Hilda asked
 you to follow me?? Why? Oh my God, is
 that why she put me in the schloss??
 To keep an eye on me? But I'm not
 involved in any of this! I'm
 innocent! Of this, anyway.

THOMAZ
 It is your connection to Mockery
 Manor. She thinks you are up to no
 good.

BETTE
 Oh no no, it's all going wrong.
 Jenkins will never pay me now.

THOMAZ
 You two are terrible spies. So am I,
 of course. I never wanted to be spy.
 (MORE)

THOMAZ (cont'd)
 But I am going to have to tell Hilda
 about this. She will want to know.

JJ
 But... I'll be fired.

The door OPENS. Gretchen enters.

GRETCHEN
 Worse than that.

Door SHUTS.

GRETCHEN (cont'd)
 You'll be killed.

BETTE
 Who the hell is this??

JJ / THOMAZ
 Gretchen??

JJ
 What are you doing here?

BETTE
 She was listening at the door!

GRETCHEN
 I followed you, JJ. I could sense
 something was wrong. My gut told me.

BETTE
 Did anyone not follow you, JJ?
 (calls) Anyone else out there, in the
 corridor? Come on in, we're having a
 party!

GRETCHEN
 Thomaz, you can't tell Hilda that JJ
 is working against her.

JJ
 I'm not working against anyone!

GRETCHEN
 Your sister, then. You'll both be
 hurt.

THOMAZ
 Gretchen, Hilda protects her park,
 yes. But she does not hurt people.
 She *helps* them. She is helping me,
 and my sister.

GRETCHEN

She is using you, Thomaz. I don't know what your situation is, but haven't you noticed - most people who work at Dunkelschloss are lost, without family or friends... desperate.

JJ

(mutters) I'm not desperate.

GRETCHEN

They are easy to manipulate. Easy to dispose of, if they become a problem.

THOMAZ

That's ridiculous. Hilda does not kill people!

GRETCHEN

So what happened to Gunther?

Beat.

BETTE

Who the hell is Gunther?

THOMAZ

I don't know who Gunther is.

JJ

Do we wanna know who Gunther is?

GRETCHEN

He's my best friend. He disappeared... he disappeared a year ago, while working for Hilda... and no-one except me seems to care. I think Hilda paid everyone off. Paid them to shut up. I think Gunther found something out about Dunkelschloss... about Wizzard Entertainment... and they killed him for it.

Ominous synth music.

INT. HILDA'S OFFICE

Hilda is on the phone.

GUISEPPE

...and Gomez? Has he confirmed?

HILDA

Yes, he'll be there.

GUISEPPE

(sighs) This is not ideal, Hilda. We're receiving a beluga whale in June.

HILDA

You don't need to be there for that.

GUISEPPE

Maybe not, but I like to welcome the new arrivals. I want to see how the new boy gets on with Letizia. That is the female beluga whale. (chuckles) She is a feisty lady. She might not like having a man in the house!

HILDA

(interrupts) Guiseppe, stop thinking like an aquarium owner and start thinking like a Committee member.

GUISEPPE

But... I do not understand the urgency. The Committee normally meets in low season, when we don't have to oversee our attractions. Bringing the annual meeting forward... we only do that in a crisis.

HILDA

This is to avert a crisis.

GUISEPPE

Have you spoken to Jenkins yet?

HILDA

No no, he's not coming. Good heavens. And he doesn't know about it, either. He mustn't find out we're bringing it forward.

GUISEPPE

But surely that is the point of us meeting! To question him!

HILDA

No no, we need to decide what to do about Jenkins without him knowing. Or it could be very dangerous for us, Guiseppe.

GUISEPPE

What's he going to do, replace all of us? Impossible! You overestimate him, Hilda.

HILDA

I do not. I know him very well. Very, very well.

GUISEPPE

But... he cannot defend himself if he is not there--

HILDA

There is no defence. Trust me. I'll present the evidence against him to the Committee, and then we'll decide what to do... with Jenkins, and with Mockery Manor too. Or he'll bring Wizzzard Entertainment to its knees.

Synth music.

CREDITS

Mockery Manor was written and directed by Lindsay Sharman
Music, sound design and editing by Laurence Owen

Hayley Evenett was JJ and Bette
Laurence Owen was Parker, Matty, Jenkins, Bohdanko, Guiseppe and additional voices
Lindsay Sharman was Hilda, Margot and Crusty Bird
Alasdair Beckett King was Tomasz and Dodgy Eric
and Abbie Eastwood was Gretchen.

Mockery Manor is now part of the Fable and Folly network - for more information, and to check out their roster of incredible shows, visit Fable and Folly dot com, and as always, you can also find us at Long Cat Media dot com.