

M&B Paranormal Investigations  
Episode 1  
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INT. M&B OFFICE

Mid telephone convo-

CLIENT (ADRIAN WANKAH)  
I tried the local bible-thumpers  
first, but apparently Church of  
England don't do exorcisms.

MAGENTA  
Yes, the Catholics are more into that  
sort of thing.  
So tell me, Mr... Wanker?

CLIENT  
Wanka.

MAGENTA  
Wanka?

CLIENT  
Wanka.

MAGENTA  
Right. Unusual name. What is the  
*nature* of ghost activity you're  
currently experiencing?

CLIENT  
Oh, you know. Gets cold and suddenly  
a bloody vase flies across the room.

MAGENTA  
Ah, poltergeist.

CLIENT  
And the sound track. The sound track.  
That's the worst part.

MAGENTA  
Sound track?

CLIENT  
Every night, when the clock strikes  
ten... the sound track starts. I  
can't be bothered to explain it.

(MORE)

CLIENT (cont'd)

You'll see what I mean when you get here.

Maybe I'm just going mad. I never used to believe in ghosts. I grew up in a house that was five hundred years old, and *that* wasn't haunted. But this place? Guess when it was built? Go on, have a guess.

MAGENTA

Oh. Erm. 19...95?

CLIENT

2019. Five years old. I'm the first person to live here. So how come there's a bloody ghost in the music room? Makes no sense at all! Anyway, will you take the job or not?

MAGENTA

Yes indeed! I'll pass your details onto our lead exorcist, Magenta - who is not me, I'm her secretary. This is a very big organisation. Many employees.

CLIENT

Well the main thing is: you're cheap. Much cheaper than that other ghost-hunting organisation. You should've seen what they quoted me!

MAGENTA

Other ghost hunting organisation?

CLIENT

It's just ridiculous. Takes the biscuit. Happens all the time. Just because I'm extremely wealthy, they think they can bloody take me to the cleaners. Monstrous.

MAGENTA

Yes, that's very sad, my heart breaks for you. You mentioned there's another ghost hunting organisation. Can you tell me their name, just out of professional curiosity?

CLIENT

Gotta go, the Aga's caught fire. See you tonight, then, yes.

MAGENTA  
 Oh alright, goodbye Wanker, Mr  
 Wanka--

CLICK BRRRRRR.

THEME TUNE.

INT. CAR

BERNARD  
 Hello! Bernard here! Welcome to our  
 first day 'on the job' as 'M&B  
 Paranormal Investigators!' We're  
 currently in the car, heading to our  
 first official ghost-hunt!

Leans on HORN

MAGENTA  
 God sake. Bloody tractor! Move, move!  
 Let me past!

BERNARD  
 I say 'official' because obviously  
 Magenta's done this sort of thing  
 before, but this time we're getting  
 paid for it. And that money will go  
 towards fixing up our new house,  
 Misty Moor Rectory, which in itself  
 exceedingly haunted--

Leans on HORN

MAGENTA  
 You (BLEEP BLEEP BLEEP)! You know  
 we're here!  
 He could've gone into the lay-bys and  
 let me pass, did you see how many  
 lay-bys have passed? Did you see me  
 motioning him to go into them?

BERNARD  
 It was clear as day, you couldn't  
 miss it.

MAGENTA  
 He knows we're here.

BERNARD  
 He's doing it on purpose!

MAGENTA

He's doing it on purpose. He's deliberately blocking us from moving past him!

BERNARD

Magenta's driving us to the gig. We're very late because we've been behind this tractor for, let's see, 63 minutes now. Can't you overtake, dear?

MAGENTA

No. Too many bends and blind summits, I can't see what's coming. Because we're in the (BLEEP) countryside! We should never have come here. 'Oh let's move to the country, what a good idea! All that lovely fresh air, ooh it's so affordable, and isolated, and full of (BLEEP) tractors!' This is what Joseph Conrad was talking about in the Heart of Darkness, Bernard. I'll have to undertake.

BERNARD

Undertake?

MAGENTA

The tractor. We can't overtake, so we'll have to go the other way round.

BERNARD

You mean drive onto the (*shrieks as car veers*) onto the field!

Lots of REVS and THUMPS and 'GAHHHH' as they drive fast over a lumpy field.

MAGENTA

Oops, sorry Mr Rabbit.

BERNARD

Bloody hell!

MAGENTA

Let's get a bit of acceleration going.

BERNARD

You did it, well done my dear.

MAGENTA

The open road. (calls) Bye bye,  
stupid (BLEEEP) tractor bastard!

BERNARD

I hope the car's alright. What's that  
groaning sound?

MAGENTA

Bernard, stay on-task. The recording.

BERNARD

Oh right, yes.  
So I'm the accountant, assistant and  
archivist for M&B's Paranormal  
Investigations, and as such, I'm  
responsible for recording our field-  
work - haha, that's ironic, given we  
just--

MAGENTA

--drove over a field! Yes!

BERNARD

Oh oh, Magenta, I almost forgot to  
tell you! That ghost-hunting company  
the client mentioned. I found out who  
they are.

MAGENTA

You did! Well done, Bernie, good  
sleuthing.

BERNARD

I just Googled it, really. I found  
their website. Here you go. Look at  
this. Incredibly slick, isn't it?

MAGENTA

Coven Co. What sort of stupid name is  
that.

BERNARD

I suppose it's like a witches coven,  
I expect that's what they're getting  
at.

MAGENTA

It's 'coven', Bernie.

BERNARD

I think it's coven. To rhyme with  
oven?

MAGENTA

No no, it's not. It's coven. To rhyme with oh-ven.

BERNARD

OK.

MAGENTA

I mean, who's likely to know between you and me, Bernie?

BERNARD

Well, of course.  
It's very slick, isn't it? Like an accountancy firm.

MAGENTA

Oh God, they've got Trustpilot reviews.

BERNARD

5 star ratings, lots of happy customers.

MAGENTA

Oh they made them up, didn't they.

BERNARD

Do you think?

MAGENTA

Well, it's very easy to do that, Bernard. Never trust that sort of thing.

BERNARD

I suppose if it's on their actual website, it's a bit suspicious.

MAGENTA

Exactly. Read one out to me.

BERNARD

"Friendly, polite, service very professional, got rid of the ghost in less than half an hour."

MAGENTA

Well it wasn't a real ghost then, was it? Oh, actually, no, I've done it in a couple of minutes before. Sometimes they just need a little nudge.

(MORE)

MAGENTA (cont'd)

God how annoying! I can't believe we have competition! What if it affects our business?

Thank God there's been a surge in ghostly activity recently.

(portentous) Although that in itself is rather curious.

BERNARD

Good for us, though.

MAGENTA

True, best not to question it, really.

BERNARD

Oh looks like there's a phone number here.

MAGENTA

Should we ring it?

BERNARD

We could do. See what they're all about.

MAGENTA

Yes, go on then!

BLEEP BLOOP. RING RING.

MAGENTA (cont'd)

We should find out who they are.

We're gonna have to come up with a nom de plume.

BERNARD

Should we pretend to be a client?

MAGENTA

Oh yesss, let's do that.

ANSWER MACHINE MESSAGE

Greetings. You have reached the Bletherington office for Coven Co, the country's only full-service esoteric agency.

MAGENTA

Only?? What are we, chopped liver?

## ANSWER MACHINE MESSAGE

If you need assistance with spirit,  
demon or fae phenomena, please leave  
a message after the bleep and we'll  
get back to you.

MAGENTA

Oh, oh, here we go!

BLEEP.

BERNARD

Uh uh, hello!

MAGENTA

We are a client. Our name is...  
Pandora and... Bernard, say  
something.

BERNARD

Um. Billy?

MAGENTA

And we have a ghost. We'd like you to  
tell us your rates, how you intend to  
go about ridding us of our ghost,  
when you can do it, how many people  
are in your company, whereabouts  
you're based, and how much business  
you've been getting recently.  
We need an email address.  
So if you could send all those  
details to... uh,  
MadameMagentaUK@gmail... what is it,  
co.uk? Dot com! Dot com. My name is  
Pandora and I look forward to your  
email. Goodbye.

BERNARD

I think we got away with that.

MAGENTA

Let's see what they say to that. Know  
thy enemy, Bernie.  
Oh, look, I think we're here.

BERNARD

What, this place?

MAGENTA

Blimey. It's very modern.



BERNARD

Yes. Not what I expected at all. It is rather odd that it's haunted, isn't it.

MAGENTA

It won't be the house that's haunted. It'll be an object. We just have to figure out which one.

BEEP.

INT. MUSIC ROOM, CLIENT'S HOUSE

CREAK of door opening.

CLIENT

So this is it. The haunted music room.

MAGENTA

Good heavens.

BERNARD

Gosh! Wowee wow! What a collection!

CLIENT

Yah. Yah. That's Eric Clapton's Wurlitzer. That drum kit - Joni Mitchell. Mel B's harmonica. The theremin - guess. Have a guess.

BERNARD

Jean Michelle Jarre?

MAGENTA

Pussycat Dolls?

CLIENT

Yup, Prince. But mainly I'm a guitar man. See this - 63 strat, Olympitic white. See that wall? Every telecaster since 1950.

BERNARD

Oh my goodness, you've got a no-caster?

MAGENTA

More like a 'no thanks' caster, am I right.  
I don't know what a no-caster is, I'm just trying to join in.

BERNARD

Ah well you see the no-casters, for a brief time in the 1950s Fender didn't own--

A grandfather clock BONGS ten times.

CLIENT

(whisper, horror) Ten o'clock.

MAGENTA

Funny sort of clock for such a modern building.

CLIENT

Here it comes. Any moment now. The sound track.

The sound track starts.

BERNARD

Ohhh! Goodness me!

MAGENTA

Look, look, Bernard!

BERNARD

The instruments are playing themselves!

MAGENTA

Oh that's clever.

BERNARD

Marvelous!

MAGENTA

It's like one of those pianos, what are they?

BERNARD

Oh oh oh, a pianola?

MAGENTA

Are they the ones that play themselves?

BERNARD

Yes, a little roll of paper with punched holes goes round...

MAGENTA

Yes, that's it!

BERNARD

This is magical!

CLIENT

Wherever I go in the house or  
gardens, the music, it follows what  
I'm doing. Look: if I cross the  
room...

The music accompanies his footsteps.

MAGENTA

Ohhh it's following your footsteps!  
Oh, that's very good.

BERNARD

That's darling, that is.

MAGENTA

Will it work for us? Look, restless  
spirit, I'm flirtatiously lifting the  
hem of my kaftan!

Music accompanies.

BERNARD

It knows what you're doing, doesn't  
it! Oooh ooh, my turn. Spirit, I'm  
walking like a cockney, I am.

Cockney walk music.

MAGENTA

Conga line!

They conga.

CLIENT

Stop it. Stop it. Stop it! This isn't  
a joke! Do you know what it's like to  
live like this? The horror? And more  
importantly, these instruments are  
not to be played!

BERNARD

Not to be played? Don't you play  
them?

CLIENT

Course not.

BERNARD

But do you mean, you have all of these instruments and you don't play a single one?

CLIENT

They're collectors' items. Playing them would wear them out! I don't even display my most valuable guitar: the '57 Goldtop Les Paul. It's in that sealed lead box over there.

Eerie music now accompanies.

MAGENTA

Why is it sealed?

CLIENT

To stop people looking at it.

MAGENTA

But isn't that the point of a collection?

CLIENT

I thought that once. And then I heard of the observer effect.

BERNARD

What's that?

CLIENT

Basic quantum mechanics. The act of observing changes the thing that's being observed.

MAGENTA

Not sure that pertains to guitars.

CLIENT

It pertains to everything! And no-one's changing my Goldtop Les Paul with their beady eyes, thank you very much. Ergo, no-one gets to look at it! Ever.

Right, I'll leave you now. Let me know when you're done.

DOOR SLAMS behind him

BERNARD

Didn't even offer us a cup of tea.

MAGENTA

Rich people, Bernard. The worst. Now then, let's have a look at this Gold Lesley.

BERNARD

No no Magenta! He expressly said we weren't allowed to.

MAGENTA

Bernie, it's the guitar that's haunted. Didn't you notice?

BERNARD

Notice what?

MAGENTA

The eerie music as soon as he said its name! And look. Look what happens when I approach it...

EERIE music gets LOUDER.

MAGENTA (cont'd)

And when I move away...

QUIETER. And then--

MAGENTA (cont'd)

Closer. Further away. Closer. Closer. Closest! Touching the box!

BERNARD

Ohhh! You're right!

MAGENTA

We're going to have to open the box. I can't do an exorcism through lead.

BERNARD

But how do we open it? It's sealed!

MAGENTA

Mr Wanka said it was sealed, but a normal person would've said, 'padlocked'. See? Wouldn't keep a kitten out. Pass me the bolt cutters, Bernie.

BERNARD

Righty-oh.

BOLT CUTTERS through metal.

MAGENTA

Right, let's have a look at this thing.

OPENS box.

BERNARD

Gosh. It's very pretty. Poor thing, left in a box. I wonder if I might just quickly have a little play...

MAGENTA

Not until I've got the ghost out, dear. Right. Let's grab this thing. Bloody hell, this is heavy. Give it a good shake... maybe that'll get it out.

BERNARD

Ummm...

MAGENTA

(effort) Shake out the ghost. Come out, stop being silly! Get out. I know you're in there! Maybe if I tap it on the floor a bit.

THUMPS it on the floor a few times

MAGENTA (cont'd)

Come on! Get out!

BERNARD

(wincing) Physically painful.

MAGENTA

Maybe if I knock it against the wall.

SLAMS it against wall.

MAGENTA (cont'd)

Get out! Come on! I'm not going to stop until you do!

The sound of a GHOST exiting a guitar.

BERNARD

Agh! Oh my God! A ghost!

MAGENTA

You can see him?

BERNARD

No, I just wanted to join in.

GHOST

Bloody 'ell.

MAGENTA

Hello. Who are you, then?

GHOST

Who, me? Eddie. Eddie Blackmore. Cor, all that shaking, I've got a headache now.

MAGENTA

No you don't, Eddie.

GHOST

No, you're right, I don't. Still, no shaking my Les Paul please. That's disrespectful.

BERNARD

This is very exciting. What's it saying?

MAGENTA

Nothing of interest yet. So, Eddie, what's going on? Why haven't you crossed over? Got something you want to say? I can pass messages onto the living, if that's what you want.

GHOST

Nah, nah. I...uh... can't remember why I'm still here, to be honest... give me a sec... it'll come back to me...

BERNARD

What's 'Eddie' saying now?

MAGENTA

(sighs) He's got ghost amnesia. Eddie, focus, look at me. OK? Maybe I can help. Generally speaking, there are only a handful of reasons for hanging around on this plane after death. So maybe if I list them, maybe one of them will spark your memory.

GHOST

Go on.

MAGENTA

OK. So, if one was a huge fan of the physical pleasures of life, one might be reluctant to let go. That's the first reason.

GHOST

What, like being well into rumpy pumpy?

MAGENTA

Indeed. Where do you think succubi and incubi come from? Perverts in life, perverts in death. Doesn't have to be rumpo, though. Were you a keen jogger?

GHOST

Don't think so.

MAGENTA

Drugs?

GHOST

Can't remember.

MAGENTA

Perhaps you miss the raw physicality of 'rocking out' on stage?

GHOST

Nah. Terrible stage fright. Played havoc with the old poop chute, d'ya know what I mean. I was more into studio stuff. Writing, jamming, recording. Hey, you know what...I think I was... in a band.

MAGENTA

Ah, it's coming back then. Good. Another common reason for the presence of a restless spirit is that they were the sort of person who, in life, had to have the last word. They have one more point to prove, one more conversation they need to dominate and they can't leave until they do. Does that sound familiar?

GHOST

Last word? Nah. Not a fan of words. I let the other guys do words.



BERNARD

You know, I can just about hear a faint scratching on the edge of my consciousness. I think I'm getting more attuned to the spirits! What's he saying now?

MAGENTA

I suspect he's trying to say he struggles to write lyrics.

GHOST

Yeah that's it! Lyrics! Hate 'em.

BERNARD

Oh, I rather like writing lyrics.

GHOST

This fella a musician, is he?

MAGENTA

Bernard? Yes, he is, a very fine musician. He played bass in a band. Foucault's Pendulum, have you heard of it?

GHOST

Foucault's Pendulum?

BERNARD

Has he heard of me??

GHOST

Sounds rubbish.

MAGENTA

Uh, yes Bernard, he has heard of you and in fact, he was a big fan.

BERNARD

Oh!

MAGENTA

He thought you were far more talented than stupid Steven.

BERNARD

Oh gosh! Well, he's alright by me, then!

MAGENTA

He's saying you should have been the lead singer!

BERNARD

Gosh! Well, I always said that,  
didn't I?

MAGENTA

Yes.

Eddie, another reason you might still  
be here is the classic unfinished  
business. A task you hadn't completed  
in life, such as, erm, oh, I don't  
know--

GHOST

--finishing my album! Yeah! Yeah, I  
remember now.

MAGENTA

Oh! There we go, well done!

GHOST

Yeah yeah yeah. The band I was in,  
they wouldn't let me experiment. Had  
to tow the party line, didn't I. It's  
all coming back. I had all these  
ideas, and nowhere to express 'em. So  
on the side, right, I was writing my  
own stuff, and I was about to record  
a solo album with this amazing bunch  
of session musicians I'd handpicked,  
right, but we didn't finish it...  
because I died.

MAGENTA

Oh dear. How did it happen?

GHOST

I was crushed under a groupie.

MAGENTA

Quite a large groupie then.

GHOST

Nah, I told her to jump off the roof  
of the tour bus into my arms. So she  
did. Think we both misjudged that  
one.

MAGENTA

Mmm. But the upshot is, you'll move  
on if you finish your solo album, is  
that what you're saying?

GHOST

Not the whole thing. I done most of it. It's just the last song that's unfinished.

MAGENTA

One song? Convenient. This won't take long then. Look, Eddie, see this little device. It records things. If you play, we can record it and... um, release it to the world.

GHOST

Yeah! Nah, it won't work.

MAGENTA

Why not?

GHOST

Can't play all the instruments, can I?

MAGENTA

You sounded like you were earlier.

GHOST

Nah, didn't you hear the guitar? I'm not good enough--

As Eddie gets distressed, the room starts to RUMBLE.

BERNARD

Oh dear. Is he alright?

GHOST

It's not good enough, I'm not good enough for my album!

BERNARD

Everything's vibrating. What's he saying?

GHOST

I'm not good enough, I need a session man.

MAGENTA

It's alright Eddie, shhhshhh, we have a session man right here. Bernard's a multi-instrumentalist. I can relay to Bernard what you need... and we can all finish the song together!

BERNARD  
What? What's going on?

GHOST  
Oh yeah, nice one, yeah.

INT. MUSIC ROOM - LATER

The song. Bernard on lead guitar.

Calls over the music -

BERNARD  
I'm having trouble reading the lyrics  
Magenta, your handwriting's not the  
best.

MAGENTA  
Just improvise. Eddie looks happy  
enough.

BERNARD  
Er. Alright.  
(sings) When I see you baby, I've got  
one thing on my mind. Getting under  
you, baby. A little bump and grind.  
Come on up to my trailer honey,  
smother me with love. Crush me like  
an insect baby, a little death from  
above. Yeah!

Guitar solo.

EDDIE  
Can you tell him to put more notes  
in?

MAGENTA  
Eddie says more notes.

BERNARD  
More notes? Uh. Alright.

Guitar solo with more notes.

BERNARD (cont'd)  
Oh gosh.

MAGENTA  
You're doing wonderfully my dear.

BERNARD

Thank you.

MAGENTA

There's smoke coming out of your fingers.

BERNARD

Ugh! I'm spent.

Music ends.

INT. CAR

MAGENTA

What a sod.

BERNARD

Unbelievable.

MAGENTA

I can't believe he won't pay us.

BERNARD

Just because you dented... I mean you did dent a rather expensive guitar by banging it on the wall. But even so!

MAGENTA

I got rid of his ghost, how else did he want me to do it? Without denting his guitar, I suppose.

BERNARD

I suppose.

MAGENTA

This is very bad, Bernie. If we don't get paid, we can't fix Misty Moor Rectory, can we? And if we can't fix Misty Moor Rectory, then we're not going to be on Great Decisions.

BERNARD

And we'll be living in a caravan throughout the whole of winter.

MAGENTA

Oh that too. But also, we won't be on a TV show.

BERNARD

We won't get to make friends with  
Kenneth!

MAGENTA

I so wanted to be his friend!

BERNARD

Well let me check our emails. You  
never know, we might have a new  
request from a client. Let's see...  
oh, we do, we have one!

MAGENTA

Read it to me, Bernie!

BERNARD

Dear Magenta and Bernard, I need your  
help getting rid of... oh.

MAGENTA

What?

BERNARD

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

BEEP.