

M&B Paranormal Investigations
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EXT. MISTYMOOR MANOR - DAY

Kenneth McCrag WALKS over the moors, a delicate soundtrack playing.

KENNETH

No matter who we are, no matter how humble, how lofty, adventurous or... not, there comes a time when certain questions become... pressing. Questions like, what nature of door shall I walk through? What roof will shelter, what... walls! Shall defend? How might I find expression - fulfilment! A sense of rooted belonging - from the very floor beneath my feet. These questions are, of course, metaphorical. But there are those who take them... *literally*... and find themselves with a renovation project of such massive proportions, of such staggering ambition... that a whole new question is born: am I in the presence of lunacy or genius? Welcome... to Great Decisions.

The 'Great Decisions' opening theme music plays. Buh buh-buh buhbuh, buh buh buhbuh buh...

KENNETH (cont'd)

Today I am in the county of Bletherington to meet Bernard and Magenta Fairton, who recently purchased a sprawling country estate with a - ahem - rich history. That's the diplomatic way to describe it. Others might say Misty Moor Rectory is a crumbling heap with a disturbing reputation and a dark and bloody past.

Car door OPENS.

KENNETH (cont'd)

Magenta! Bernard! Hello!

MAGENTA / BERNARD
Hello, greetings, etc.

KENNETH
How are you?

MAGENTA
(flustered) All the better for
meeting you, Kenneth.
(sotto) It's Kenneth, Bernard!

They WALK into the recotry, through a CREAKING door.

KENNETH
Wowee-wow, look at this place. Awful.

MAGENTA
Isn't it.

BERNARD
Yes, it's a dump!

MAGENTA
We're filled with regret, Kenneth.

KENNETH
So tell me. Guys. What on earth
possessed you?

MAGENTA
Possessed? We're not possessed,
Kenneth. Not yet, anyway.

BERNARD
I don't think Kenneth meant it
literally, dear. More, 'why are we
doing this?'

MAGENTA
Oh, I see. Well, Kenneth - long-time
fan, by the way, don't usually have a
thing for bald men but you're the
exception - oh, and Jason Statham of
course, he's lovely.

BERNARD
Yes, Crank is a masterpiece.

MAGENTA
An absolute masterpiece.
Sorry, what was I saying?

BERNARD

He was asking why we bought the rectory.

MAGENTA

Oh yes. It was cheap.

BERNARD

Very cheap! Extraordinarily cheap!

KENNETH

And because you both have a passion for renovation.

BERNARD

Sure, yes. Why not.

MAGENTA

Do you remember Bernard? When we first saw the rectory online, it was Tequila Taco Tuesday.

KENNETH

What's that?

BERNARD

Tequila Taco Tuesday! Every Tuesday in our house is Tequila Taco Tuesday, isn't it dear! And on the Tequila Taco Tuesday in question, after several cheeky slammers, we found ourselves on Facebook Marketplace.

MAGENTA

And there it was! Next to a posting for a Sylvanian Family tree house, and a home-made model of Linda Blair giving herself a hand shandy with a crucifix... there it was... Misty Moor Rectory. So we bought it!

KENNETH

Wait. Let me unpack that. You bought a sprawling country estate... on Facebook Marketplace? When you were drunk?

BERNARD

Yes, that's about right.

KENNETH

No. This isn't working. Cut!

MAGENTA

Did we say something wrong?

KENNETH

OK, you two. (sighs) Have you seen the show before?

MAGENTA

Oh yes.

BERNARD

We're big fans! We've watched all of them!

MAGENTA

It's marvelous. It's the same thing every time, but we love it.

KENNETH

Really? Most people who come on the show haven't seen it.

MAGENTA

Nooo! Oh, I thought as much.

KENNETH

Maybe if they did watch the bloody show, they'd know how to renovate a bloody house without bankrupting themselves.

MAGENTA

We've said exactly the same thing, haven't we Bernard? Everytime, everytime we sit down to watch it, we go 'they couldn't have watched it otherwise they wouldn't be doing this, would they!'. And they never take your advice, Kenneth.

KENNETH

OK, so if I could offer you some advice, you might think Great Decisions is just another property makeover, reality TV show. But it's not. It's poetry.

MAGENTA

Poetry? Mmm yes, I like poetry. Like, there was a young lady from Weenis, who sat on a rather large--

KENNETH

--Not LITERAL poetry.

(MORE)

KENNETH (cont'd)

Not literal poetry. Look. Think about it. What is the essence of humanity? What separates us from the great apes? Hmm?

BERNARD

Oh! Um. Underpants?

MAGENTA

Double glazing! Canapes?

BERNARD

Carpal tunnel? Pirates! Lapel pins! Arch support!

MAGENTA

Travel pillows! Chap stick!

KENNETH

Culture. It's culture.

MAGENTA / BERNARD

Oh.

KENNETH

Culture. Ambition. Fire, passion, Italian marble, German windows! Capiche?

BERNARD

No?

MAGENTA

Not really.

KENNETH

(sigh) Never mind. We'll have to focus on the budget then. Let's take this again!

CREW

Rolling! In three, two...

KENNETH

I have to say, Magenta, Bernard, Misty Moor Manor is huge. Staggeringly so. Dozens of bedrooms, a banquet room, a chapel--

MAGENTA

Dungeons. Plural.

BERNARD

Twenty six bathrooms.

MAGENTA

14 acres of barren land where nothing ever grows.

BERNARD

A perpetually frozen lake.

KENNETH

Yuh yuh. That's a lot of real estate. How much did you pay for it?

MAGENTA

Fifty quid.

KENNETH

You're joking.

MAGENTA

No.

KENNETH

OK. Bargain. Although it IS in a state of fairly advanced collapse. What's your budget for renovation?

BERNARD

Fifty quid.

KENNETH

Sorry what.

MAGENTA

Fifty quid. Which we've already spent.

BERNARD

Not quite! The caravan was forty nine pounds ninety nine.

KENNETH

The one you're living in while you renovate? The one parked in the banquet hall.

MAGENTA

Yes.

KENNETH

OK. So you've spent a hundred quid--

BERNARD

Ninety nine pounds ninety nine pence.

KENNETH

...but if you want this place to be returned to anything like its former glory - or even just liveable - you're going to need another, what? Two mill? Three?

MAGENTA

Three million quid! Do you really think so, Kenneth? Oh God!

BERNARD

Oh God, and he's normally right about these things, isn't he?

MAGENTA

He's always right, but no-one ever listens to him!

KENNETH

So where's that money gonna come from? Friends and family?

MAGENTA / BERNARD

(laughs) Haha no! Are we friends with the queen of Sheba, darling?? The crown prince of Saudi Arabia, is he your bestie?? Etc.

KENNETH

OK. So. Savings? Mortgage?

MAGENTA

The bank won't give us one. They said it was too haunted.

BERNARD

Shhh!

MAGENTA

Oh uh erm they said it was too... big.

Jobs?

BERNARD

Sadly, I had to quit my job because the commuting time from Misty Moor was six hours each way.

KENNETH

And you can't work from home?

BERNARD

No.

MAGENTA

The internet here is very patchy because of all the ghosts.

KENNETH

Ghosts?

MAGENTA

I meant... lack of fibre optic cabling!

KENNETH

You said ghosts.

MAGENTA

Did I? Well that's very strange, because no ghosts live here. Do they, Bernard?

BERNARD

No no no ghosts at all! Not even one malevolent spirit that might follow you home!

MAGENTA

So you and your camera crew, Kenneth, you're very safe here. Ahem. Anyway, as I was trying to say before we all got confused about how many ghosts haunt this place -

BERNARD

Which is none.

MAGENTA

None, exactly. As I was trying to say, my clients are mainly online too, so essentially, to move here, we've both had to quit our jobs.

KENNETH

So you have no savings and no income whatsoever?

BERNARD

Well yes but it's not as bad as all that, because we're starting a new business to pay for the renovation!

MAGENTA

Yes we are! A brand new venture!

KENNETH

Wait, wait. So let me get this straight. A new business? A huge renovation project? And a baby on the way?

MAGENTA / BERNARD

A baby?

KENNETH

Congratulations, by the way.

MAGENTA

(icy) I am not pregnant.

BERNARD

Oh dear.

KENNETH

Ah. It's the kaftan, it's very billowy. It just makes you look a bit...

We'll edit that out.

So tell me, Magenta, Bernard: what's the new business?

MAGENTA

Ahem.

Magenta and Bernard's Paranormal Investigations.

Into the M&B Paranormal Investigations THEME TUNE.