

M&B Paranormal Investigations
Episode 3
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INT. MISTY MOOR CRYPT

Bernard is shooting a Youtube video.

BERNARD

OK. Let's have another go at this.
Take 42. The camera loves you, baby.

What is going on, it's ya boy Bernard
coming at you with another patch
cable review, but before we get into
it, remember to hit subscribe, smash
that like button and hit the bell
icon so you never miss an update--

MAGENTA

(distant) Bernard?! Is that you down
there??

BERNARD

Oh yes, hello darling!

Magenta enters

MAGENTA

Bernard! What are you doing?

BERNARD

Oh I'm just, errr...

MAGENTA

I've been looking for you everywhere!
What even IS this room? I didn't even
know it was here!

BERNARD

I think it's a crypt.

MAGENTA

Oh my God.

BERNARD

And actually, if you look back
there... it's more like a catacomb.

MAGENTA

God, it's huge! So many bones everywhere.

BERNARD

Yes, it's a little unsettling.

MAGENTA

Is it unsanitary? I guess they don't have any meat on them, do they.

BERNARD

Long dead, I'd have thought. It goes all the way under the house! I found it a few weeks ago.

MAGENTA

A few weeks ago!

BERNARD

I'm pretty sure I told you.

MAGENTA

I don't think s--
Hello, what's all this equipment?
What are you doing down here?

BERNARD

I'm shooting Youtube videos.

MAGENTA

Youtube videos?

BERNARD

Yes. Pretty sure I told you that too.

MAGENTA

No no no, you didn't.
When?

BERNARD

The weekend I was clearing rubble and you were burning sage in the Orangery. Do you not remember this?

MAGENTA

No!

BERNARD

I told you I'd found the perfect place to set up my Youtube studio. I mean, it's not quite perfect yet; I need to put a few bass traps in the corners, it's a bit boomy in here.

(MORE)

BERNARD (cont'd)
But you were really quite happy for me.

MAGENTA
I was?

BERNARD
How have you forgotten this?

MAGENTA
I don't know! Are you sure it was me you were talking to??

BERNARD
Well of course. We're the only two who live here. Apart from all the ghosts.

MAGENTA
(creeping dread) No no no. This isn't right. Something weird is going on.

BERNARD
It's alright darling, I don't mind if you weren't listening.

MAGENTA
No, Bernard, it's not that I know I'm not always the most attentive when you talk about you... erm.

Beat

BERNARD
Audio interfaces? The difference between wires and cables? Gain staging? Compression versus pre-amping?

MAGENTA
Yes, yes. That.
But darling... there's NO WAY I'd have forgotten a catacomb. Or a Youtube studio! No. I'm sorry. It wasn't me in the Orangery that day. Whoever you spoke to... that wasn't me.

BERNARD
But if it wasn't you... who was it?

MAGENTA
(whisper) A doppelganger.

BERNARD

But it looked exactly like you!

MAGENTA

Yes, that's what a doppelganger is, isn't it.

BERNARD

Yes, I suppose so.

MAGENTA

An exact double. An apparition of a living person. And a very bad omen indeed...

BERNARD

Actually, it wasn't EXACTLY like you.

MAGENTA

Eh?

BERNARD

It had very red eyes. And it kept laughing. And it ate six bowls of cereal for lunch. No milk. Is that normal for doppelgangers?

MAGENTA

Umm.
Did you say I was working in the Orangery that day?

BERNARD

Yes. You were doing a cleansing ritual. Getting rid of spirits.

MAGENTA

By... burning sage?

BERNARD

Yes.

MAGENTA

Ah right.

Beat

BERNARD

That wasn't sage you were burning, was it?

MAGENTA

It was! At first. And then I ran out so I... moved on to other herbs.

BERNARD

So you spent the weekend hotboxing in the Orangery while I cleared rubble.

MAGENTA

I asked if you wanted to join me! Didn't I? I can't actually remember.

BERNARD

No, you're right, you did invite me to join you.

MAGENTA

Well there you go then!

BERNARD

But I thought you were getting rid of spirits! Not getting high as balls!

MAGENTA

I'm sorry Bernie, I probably assumed you knew. Didn't you smell it on me?

BERNARD

I was rather clogged with rubble dust!

MAGENTA

I'm sorry darling.

BERNARD

No no, no. Don't apologise. At least you don't have a doppleganger. Or maybe it's a shame you don't. Because then there'd be twice as much of you to love.

MAGENTA

Oh hoh hoho, very good! Although if I really did have a doppleganger, it would've tried to murder me, so... probably best I don't. So these Youtube videos you're shooting, are they about the paranormal?

BERNARD

Goodness no, that's your field of expertise. My channel's about patch cables.

MAGENTA

Right.

BERNARD

I can explain it?

MAGENTA

No you're alright. Big audience for that, then?

BERNARD

A keen but niche audience, I hope.

MAGENTA

You hope? So you haven't released any yet?

BERNARD

No no no, I want to get better at it before I upload anything. I've made a few videos already, but they weren't very good.

MAGENTA

Don't be silly, I bet they are! Why don't you show them to me?

BERNARD

No, no...

MAGENTA

Go on, I can give you my feedback!

BERNARD

No, no, I don't think I want--

MAGENTA

Let me see!

BERNARD

I literally can't, I deleted the footage. All 105 hours of it. Anyway! Small steps! You were looking for me, is everything alright?

MAGENTA

Oh yes. I almost forgot. You know that stray cat we've seen hanging around?

BERNARD

Mr Baby!

MAGENTA

Mr Baby, yes. Mr Baby's had kittens under our bed.

BERNARD
No! Oh my goodness! Really??

MAGENTA
Yes! Seven kittens!

BERNARD
Seven! Are they alright?

MAGENTA
I mean... they look healthy.

BERNARD
Let's go look! I want to see! Oh oh!

MAGENTA
What are you doing?

BERNARD
I'm bringing the camera! To record
the new babies!

MAGENTA
Oh Bernard, I didn't know I was going
to be filmed today. I haven't done my
hair.

BERNARD
You look ravishing as always, my
dear.

MAGENTA
If I'd known I'd be on camera, I
would've made an effort. Are you
going to upload this to Youtube?

BERNARD
Nooo. It'd get taken down for nudity
if I did that. Aren't you a bit
chilly, my dear?

MAGENTA
You know I don't feel the cold,
Bernard.

BERNARD
I can't believe Mr Baby had kittens!
How did you find out?

MAGENTA
I heard them. They're very loud.

BERNARD

Are they feeding alright? Is Mr Baby a good mother?

MAGENTA

Mr Baby's doing a fine job, considering.

BERNARD

Shall we keep them? We should keep them! There's plenty of mice here, and we'd supplement their diet, of course. We'll have to get them neutered.

MAGENTA

Mmm yes, we don't want them breeding, that's for damn sure.

BERNARD

What's the matter? You don't seem as thrilled as I'd expect, Magenta? Are you worried about our cats, about how they'll react to the kittens? I'm sure they'll be friends, they'll get on eventually. Actually, no, they'll hate each other, but this place is very big so I'm sure they could co-exist peacefully enough.

MAGENTA

I really don't think they could, Bernard. These kittens... they're... they're demonic.

BERNARD

Haha, aren't they always.
(beat) Oh. Do you mean...

MAGENTA

...possessed by a demon, yes.

BERNARD

The kittens are possessed by a demon?

MAGENTA

I mean, maybe I'm wrong. Maybe they're just talking cats. Demon or cat; very hard to tell the difference, I'm sure.

BERNARD

They're *talking*? But that doesn't make any sense. They're so *young*. And they're kittens.
What about Mr Baby? Is she alright?

MAGENTA

Mr Baby's not possessed. Mr Baby's entirely unbothered.

BERNARD

Cats are weird.

MAGENTA

So weird.

WEIRD MEWING from a distance.

BERNARD

Gosh. Is that them?

MAGENTA

That's them.

BERNARD

Ohhh. It's so guttural.

MAGENTA

Wait Bernard. Don't go in yet. Turn to me. I'm just going to push your fringe out of the way...

BERNARD

What are you putting on my forehead? Is that a jar of blood?

MAGENTA

Eww no of course not, it's jam. I'm daubing a protective sigil on your forehead. If the kittens are possessed and not just advanced for their age, then it's best if the demon stays where it is and doesn't leap into one of us.

BERNARD

(sad) Ohhh, why couldn't they just be normal kittens. I was so excited.

MAGENTA

They're still very cute.

BERNARD

Oh good.

MAGENTA

Ready? I'll open the door in three...
two...

BERNARD

Wait... what's my role in this?

MAGENTA

I need you to move the bed so I can
draw a binding circle around them.
Alright? Three two one, let's go.

OPENS DOOR, CREEEAK.

WEIRD MEWING gets louder.

MAGENTA (cont'd)

(whisper) Bernard, let me do the
talking. Demons can be very tricky.

Beat.

BERNARD

Psp psp psp!

MAGENTA

(whisper) Bernard, what are you
doing?? What did I just say!

BERNARD

Sorry!

Multi-voiced demon -

DEMON

Who dares psp psp psp at me!

MAGENTA

Just me! I'm back! With my partner.

BERNARD

Hello! Bernard.

MAGENTA

Don't tell 'em your name!

Demon LAUGHS triumphantly.

MAGENTA (cont'd)

(whispers) Just move the bed. I'll
start drawing.

Starts to MOVE BED

DEMON

What are you doing? You dare disturb
my sanctuary!

BERNARD

Don't mind me, just rearranging the
furniture for better feng-shui--

MAGENTA

Just stop talking! Just stop talking!

DEMON

Did I give you permission to move the
bed, Bernard, son of Mark and Hilary
of Penistone?

BERNARD

You've met my parents?

MAGENTA

No, he knows everything about you
now, because you told him your name,
didn't ya.
And what might your name be,
creature?

DEMON

As if I'm going to tell you that,
witch!

Bernard GRUNTS as he moves bed final bit of the way

BERNARD

Done! (squees) There they are!

DEMON

Ahhh the light! The light! It hurts
my tiny little eyes!

BERNARD

Ohhhh look at them! The ginger one!
Tabbies! And the white kitties ohhhh!
Hello Mr Baby, what a good mummy
you're being!

Mr Baby MEOWS.

DEMON

Silence!

BERNARD

I don't think you should talk to your
mother like that.

DEMON

I was talking to YOU, not her.

BERNARD

Gosh, the voice comes out of all the
kittie's mouths at once, how does
that work?

MAGENTA

Bernard, do you have verbal diarrhoea
or something?

BERNARD

Sorry. It's because of the Youtube
videos, you just get used to
talking--

DEMON

--I said SILENCE. What part of
'silence' don't you understand--

CHALK SOUNDS on floor

DEMON (cont'd)

What do you think you're doing,
witch?

MAGENTA

Completing a chalk circle! Ha! As
long as this circle remains intact,
you are bound and will not move
beyond its confines.

Demon GRUMBLES.

MAGENTA (cont'd)

Well done for distracting him while I
drew the circle, Bernie.

BERNARD

Oh! Did I do that? Glad to be of
service.

Demon's grumble turns into a SINISTER LAUGH

BERNARD (cont'd)

The kittens are laughing, dear.

MAGENTA

I can see that.

DEMON

You think a chalk circle will bind ME, a Grouffuctorr of the 12th order??

BERNARD

Oh dear.

MAGENTA

Correct. It cannot bind a demon of the 12th order. But the creatures you currently inhabit tend to respect the power of the circle.

DEMON

Ah. Balls.

BERNARD

Oh yes, cats do like sitting within boundaries, don't they.

MAGENTA

Yes. What do you want, demon? Why are you here on this plane? What are you planning? Let's hear it, c'mon.

DEMON

Why should I tell you?

MAGENTA

Because... I don't know. Don't you want to brag about your nefarious plans? Your type normally do.

DEMON

I would prefer to surprise you with their fulfilment mwahhhhhahahahaha.

BERNARD

Look at the kitties laughing at once, that's so funny. This'll make an excellent Youtube short.

MAGENTA

Can't fulfil many plans stuck inside a circle though, can you? Unless the plan involves licking a lot of tiny arseholes.

Beat

DEMON

I'll figure out how to get out of it.
And when I do...

MAGENTA

...Mr Baby will drag you straight
back in.

DEMON

No. No!

MAGENTA

And the most powerful force in the
world is a mother's love! Or just a
very annoyed cat.

DEMON

Noooo!

MAGENTA

So come on. You might as well tell me
before I banish you to whence you
came. How did you get here? And why
did you come?

DEMON

Oh, I came because of a plan so
nefarious, it would make you very
uncomfortable.

MAGENTA

Oh yeah?

DEMON

And I shall remember you, witch, and
when my plan comes to fruition, it
shall be sooo bad for you and ooh let
me tell you, it's gonna be rubbish...

MAGENTA

Do you even have a plan?

DEMON

Why else would I be here?

MAGENTA

That's what I'm wondering.

BERNARD

Did someone summon him, perhaps?

MAGENTA

No, can't be that. They would've brought the demon to them if they had. He wouldn't have manifested under our bed.

DEMON

OK I'll tell you.

MAGENTA

Really?

DEMON

Yes, because I'd quite like to go back, actually. Maybe you could help.

MAGENTA

Help? You mean you want me to banish you back to whence you came?

DEMON

With a ritual? No. That won't work.

MAGENTA

I don't see why it wouldn't. Especially if you're gonna cooperate. Normally the tricky bit is all the resistance.

DEMON

Yes, but the way back is blocked.

MAGENTA

Explain?

DEMON

Can't get back. Blocked.

MAGENTA

Maybe... explain a bit more?

DEMON

(sighs) Fine.

LOTR-alike MUSIC COMES IN

DEMON (cont'd)

This house. This land.
Before it became a shelter for
fools... before the gilded cross and
its grasping priests...
In the time of the druids... this was
a sacred oak grove.

MAGENTA

So that's what I've been feeling in
me waters.

BERNARD

What's the significance?

MAGENTA

Some say the sacred oak groves were
doorways between this world and the
next.

BERNARD

Ahhhh. So this fella used the doorway
to come through, did he?

MAGENTA

It shouldn't be possible. The grove
is long gone.

DEMON

They all are. It takes over a hundred
years for a single oak to reach
maturity, and many more for a grove
to attain full magical potency.
And then the Romans came and in the
blink of an eye, razed each sacred
place and on them built their
churches. They blocked the doorways
with man-carved stone... and dammed
the flow of magic between worlds.

MAGENTA

Except here, then? And that's why you
were able to come through?

DEMON

Yes. This doorway is only partially
blocked. It is... propped open.
There's a gap.

MAGENTA

If you squeezed through a gap, can't
you just squeeze back again?

DEMON

Maybe 'gap' isn't the right word.
It's more like a... cat-flap.

BERNARD

How appropriate! That's cute.

DEMON

One of those cat-flaps with two locks. If both locks are open, the cat can come and go as they please. If both locks are activated, the cat is trapped inside. Or outside, depending on where it started. If the 'out' lock is activated, the cat can *only* go out but can't come back in - wait, no... I meant 'come in', it can come in but not go out again. But if the 'in' lock is activated but the other one isn't... hang on. I've got that wrong. If the 'in' lock is--

MAGENTA

Yes yes. We get the idea, that's fine, thank you.
Why did you come through the flap into this world in the first place?

DEMON

Curiosity. Not many doorways left. Always worth a look when you find one.

BERNARD

Gosh, can't believe this house is a doorway! Like in Buffy the Vampire Slayer. Y'know; the Hellmouth.

MAGENTA

Maybe that's why the house is so haunted. Because of this one-way flow of magic, with nowhere to drain.

BERNARD

Not sure I want to live on a Hellmouth. All manner of beastly things might come through.

DEMON

Erm! Excuse me. I don't appreciate being called a 'thing'. And while we're at it; I'm not a demon either. That's what the Christians called us, it's basically a slur.

MAGENTA / BERNARD

Oh God, is it? Sorry! What would you prefer to be called?

DEMON

You can call me... wait a minute! I know what you're trying to do! You're trying to trick me into telling you my name! Sneaky bastards. You can't fool me that easily.

BERNARD

No no, that wasn't our intention!

MAGENTA

(mutters) It was actually my intention, but never mind.

BABY JUNIORS

For now, you can call me... Baby Junior. Actually there's seven of me, so... Baby Juniors. So. You gonna help me get back?

MAGENTA

Not entirely sure I can.

BABY JUNIORS

Course you can. You're a witch, aren't you?

MAGENTA

Well, I dunno about 'witch'. People react badly to that, lots of negative connotations.

BABY JUNIORS

You should reclaim the term. You're a witch. Be proud! Albeit not a very powerful one.

MAGENTA

I'll have you know, I've been very powerful at different times in my life! It waxes and wanes! I used to be able to talk to the animals, didn't I Bernie, do you remember that?

BERNARD

Yes! We're sort of talking to some right now.

MAGENTA

Oh we are aren't we! But this is different.

MAGENTA (cont'd)

But look here baby Junior - Baby Juniors - I've never dealt with a doorway between worlds before. I wouldn't know where to start.

BABY JUNIORS

I can tell you what you need to do.

BERNARD

(whispers) Are we sure it's safe to unblock the magical catflap?

MAGENTA

Good question.

BABY JUNIORS

The druids could manage the doorway, I'm sure you two will cope. And frankly, while the catflap is stuck in the 'on' position, you're in big trouble. Others will know of my passage into this world by now. They'll be looking for the doorway as we speak. And they're not as fluffy as I.

BERNARD

Oh gawd.

MAGENTA

Alright. What do I need to do?

DEMON

First; gather your coven. (nb. pronounces it like Magenta)

BERNARD

Erm. Are you sure that's how it's pronounced?

MAGENTA

I told you it was 'coven'.

BERNARD

I really don't think it is.

MAGENTA

Baby Junior, I'm afraid I'm not in a coven.

DEMON

Well you better join one quick. Because you're not gonna manage this on your own.

Music SWELLS.

End of episode