

M&B Paranormal Investigations
Episode 7
Prolapsed Rectory
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INT. CAR

SERAPHINA PHONE MESSAGE

...unfortunately the entity is still here. It is currently in the catacombs under the house. And it might now have a taste for human flesh.

BERNARD

Oh blimey.

SERAPHINA PHONE MESSAGE

... so, thought I should warn you before you all get home. And in case it finds me before you get here.

BERNARD

Oh wow. Oh dear.

SERAPHINA PHONE MESSAGE

In which case, this is goodbye...

BERNARD

Hummm. I don't like the sound of this.

MAGENTA

What is it? What's she saying? Ughh, I can't believe we're stuck behind a tractor *again*. Am I a tractor magnet, Bernard? Do the tractors hear my siren call and come flocking, is that it?

BERNARD

So, umm--

LINDSAY

Oooh, there's a drive-through coming up, shall we get something?

MAGENTA

I thought you wanted dino nugs and beans?

LINDSAY

Yeah, but if we go to the drive-through I can get a Mixed Floob.

BERNARD

Erm. I think you need to listen to Seraphina's message, darling.

MAGENTA

I'm driving, Bernie. Just tell me what she said. What the hell's a mixed floob?

LINDSAY

It's a sort of thick milkshake with chunks of apple pie.

BERNARD

She said that--

LINDSAY

It's really nice.

MAGENTA

We can make that at home.

BERNARD

She said--

LINDSAY

It's not the same, mum!

BERNARD

You know what, I'll just play it on the speakerphone.

As Seraphina speaks, Bernard cranks up the volume to make them listen.

MAGENTA

(muttering darkly) Mixed Floob. As if we needed further proof of the fall of mankind.

BERNARD

Everybody listen to the message please, thank you!

SERAPHINA PHONE MESSAGE

Magenta, it's me, your mother. I assume your phone is off because you're still at the hospital--

BEEP

INT. MISTY MOOR RECTORY

Low RUMBLE (foundations shaking)

MAGENTA

(shouts) Mother! Mother! Where are you?

LINDSAY

(whispers) Mum! Shhh! The thing in the catacombs might hear us.

MAGENTA

It's gonna know we're here sooner or later, might as well be now.
(shouts) Mother! Are you eaten?

BERNARD

Is it me, or is the house sort of shaking?

MAGENTA

She might've been taken to the catacombs. I have to go down there.

LINDSAY

No! That's a terrible idea!

BERNARD

Erm. That crack in the floor, was that always there?

MAGENTA

You two stay here, I'll go find the old witch.

LINDSAY

You are absolutely not going down to the catacombs!

CRASH

BERNARD

You know, I think we should maybe get out of the house. With some urgency, in fact.

MAGENTA

Good idea, Bernie, take Lindsay outside.

LINDSAY

Dad, tell her she's not going into the catacombs!

BERNARD
I wouldn't presume to tell your
mother what to do, my dear.

LINDSAY
I think this is one of those
occasions when you should, actually!

CRACK

BERNARD
Actually yes, you're right. EVERYBODY
OUT NOW! NOW NOW NOW!

Windows BREAK with the movement

MAGENTA
Good God, watch out!

BERNARD
This way!

LINDSAY
Wait, wait! We can't leave yet!

BERNARD
What??

LINDSAY
I just realised, Mr Baby's upstairs!
We have to rescue them!

BERNARD
Wait no no Lindsay, don't..! Come
back!

MAGENTA
Oh for... Lindsay! Wait for us!

BEEP BEEP

EXT. MISTY MOOR RECTORY

Birds TWEET. Kittens MEOW.

MAGENTA
See? Panic over nothing! We got out
in plenty of time.

Distant RUMBLE

BERNARD

Oh. There goes half the roof.

LINDSAY

Are we far enough away to avoid shrapnel, do you think?

MR BABY

No risk of that. It's more likely to fall inwards as the floor collapses into the catacombs below.

RUMBLE as other half of roof goes.

BERNARD

Aaand there goes the other half of the roof. All those hours up a ladder, fixing loose gargoyles... all that labour, wasted.

Well, not quite wasted; I did learn a lot about roofing. Invaluable, really. Every day's a lesson in the school of life.

MAGENTA

Are you comfortable in that cardboard box, Mr Babies?

MR BABY

Quite comfortable, thank you.

LINDSAY

Why do you think the rectory's collapsing?

BERNARD

I don't know.

MAGENTA

(sotto, snorts, giggles) Sorry. Bit like prolapsed rectum.

BERNARD

Oh! Haha!

MR BABY

The rectory's foundations were compromised by the giant serpent in the catacombs.

MAGENTA / BERNARD
 (sotto) Giant serpent in your
 basement! That'll do it! Great big
 snake in your tunnel!

MAGENTA
 Hang on, what do you mean, 'there's a
 giant serpent in the catacombs'?

MR BABY
 I mean there's a giant serpent in the
 catacombs.

BERNARD
 Ohhh dear. Do you think Seraphina's
 alright?

MAGENTA
 Yes, I'm trying not to think about
 that right now, Bernard.

BERNARD
 Sorry dear. I'm sure she's fine!

DISTANT CRASH

BERNARD (cont'd)
 Completely fine.

CRASH

BERNARD (cont'd)
 There goes the West Tower.

MAGENTA
 Ohhh...

LOTR-like music

MR BABY
 The giant serpent is the entity the
 elder witch spoke of. T'is he who
 came through the portal and devoured
 her foe.
 Known to the Norse men as
 Jörmungandr. The World Serpent. Odin
 cast Jormungandr into the sea, and in
 the deepest ocean trench he found a
 portal to my home realm. But now he
 is returned to this world, drawn here
 by man's cruelty.

(MORE)

MR BABY (cont'd)

His appetite, once aroused, is endless; he will feed and feed, he will shake the foundations of Midgard, mountains will fall, oceans will rise, and this time, there is no Odin to stop him.

MUSIC STOPS

LINDSAY

It's OK. Granny will do it.

MAGENTA

Ummm. Do what darling?

LINDSAY

Stop the giant snake thing.

BERNARD

Erm. Seraphina's certainly formidable, but... now I'm not saying your belief in your grandmother is misplaced...

MAGENTA

Granny's no Odin, darling.

LINDSAY

Well, yeah, but... what, do you two think she's been eaten or crushed in the rubble or something?? Come on. That's ridiculous. Granny's been a witch for ages! She'll know what to do. I bet you anything, she's down there right now in the catacombs, with the giant snake thing, and she's, like, y'know... kapow! Blam! Upper cut! Finish him! It's probably why the rectory's collapsing. Because she's winning.

Long pause

MR BABY

I think she's more likely dead.

MAGENTA / BERNARD

Mr Baby! You can't say that!

MR BABY

What? What is it?

LINDSAY
 (upset, annoyed) Can't believe you
 said that. You don't know her! She's
 fine. Granny's fine.

BERNARD
 (unconvincing) Yeahhh, you're right,
 I'm sure she's fine.

VROOM. Car heads towards them.

MAGENTA
 Oh who the hell's that coming up the
 driveway??

BERNARD
 Oh for Pete's sake, we would get a
 visitor *now!*
 Is that a Porsche?

WHIRR as car window wound down

KENNETH
 (distant) Hello! Ciao ciao! Just me!

BERNARD
 (horror) Oh my God, it's Kenneth!

MAGENTA
 No! Is it a filming day??

BERNARD
 It is! I forgot! What do we do? We
 can't tell him to go away!

KENNETH
 (calls) OK to park here? By the
 trees?

MR BABY
 I can't see above the cardboard. Who
 is it?

BERNARD
 It's Kenneth from Great Decisions.
 Oh, sorry; Great Decisions is a
 property renovation show.

MR BABY
 Oh.

Kenneth SLAMS car door.

KENNETH
 (distant) Ugh, mud. Jeb, pass my wellies.

MAGENTA
 Do you get Great Decisions where you're from, Mr Baby?

MR BABY
 Oh yes.

From a shorter distance, SQUELCHING through the mud.

KENNETH
 Hello hello!

MR BABY
 (excited) Ohhh! Is that him! Ohh! Didn't know I'd be meeting a celebrity today!

MAGENTA
 Shhh. Cats don't speak, remember.

MR BABY
 Oh right. Yes.

MAGENTA
 Kenneth! Hello.

BERNARD
 Hello Kenneth.

KENNETH
 Don't tell me you were all waiting for me out here! You didn't have to do that.
 C'mere, kiss kiss! Mwah.
 A box of kittens! For me? Haha.
 And is this your daughter!

BERNARD
 Yes. That's Lindsay.

KENNETH
 Kiss kiss! Gosh, there'll be quite an age gap between siblings, eh!

MAGENTA
 Not really, Kenneth, because I'm not pregnant.

KENNETH
 Oh right, yeah.
 (MORE)

KENNETH (cont'd)

Just me and a camera guy today. This is Jeb.

JEB

Hello.

KENNETH

Just a quick one, walk the property, grab some update footage, you know the drill. 'Six months in, and the couple have run out of money', that sort of thing.

LINDSAY

No, no, I'm sorry, this isn't right. You can't be here. Not today. I'm sorry, I think you should leave.

MAGENTA

It's alright darling, it's alright.

KENNETH

Hmm? Oh. Is something wrong?

BERNARD

Well, it's not the *best* time to be filming.

KENNETH

Mmm. Of course. What is it? Woodworm? Water damage? Fire damage? Asbestos? Windows stuck in Germany? Lead piping? Heritage groups up your arse? Shifting foundations? I've heard it all, you can't shock me.

MAGENTA

I don't know about that; there's always room for surprise.

BERNARD

Although shifting foundations is certainly an issue.

KENNETH

Oh no, really? That's a big one. Are you rolling, Jeb?

JEB

Yep.

KENNETH

Great. Alright, here we go.

GREAT DECISIONS theme music

KENNETH (cont'd)

Without a solid foundation, work at Misty Moor Rectory grinds to a halt. And indeed, if the foundation should become even more unstable, the whole structure could JESUS CHRIST!

House COLLAPSES. And keeps collapsing.

KENNETH (cont'd)

F**KING HELL! THE WHOLE THING'S GOING! OH MY GOD! IT'S COLLAPSING INWARDS! HOLY SH*T! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT! F**K ME! IT'S STILL GOING! A HUGE HOLE'S OPENED UP! DO YOU SEE THAT?? IT'S JUST FALLING IN!

A long PAUSE once the noise subsides.

KENNETH (cont'd)

(quiet) You got that, yeah? Jeb, tell me you got that.

JEB

Yep.

BERNARD

Oh my God.

LINDSAY

Oh no. No, no, no...
Granny.

MAGENTA

It's alright, Lindsay.

LINDSAY

Is it?? I don't think it is!

MAGENTA

No, listen to me. You were right before. She's been a witch a long time, and she's got through far worse than this before.

KENNETH

Ugh! What's happening??

BERNARD

Worse than THIS? I'm not sure it gets much worse.

KENNETH
What's happening to me!?

MAGENTA
Kenneth?

Kenneth TRANSFORMS

BERNARD
Oh my goodness!

MR BABY / KENNETH
Oh really, how naive. It can always
get worse. There's always room for
surprise!

MAGENTA / BERNARD
Kenneth??

MR BABY / KENNETH
Mwahhahahahahaha!!!

AD BREAK

EXT. MISTY MOOR RECTORY

MAGENTA / BERNARD
Kenneth??

MR BABY / KENNETH
Kenneth isn't in right now, would you
like to leave a message? Hahaha!

LINDSAY
Mr Baby? Is that you?? Have you
possessed Kenneth McCrag?

MAGENTA
(confused) You jumped out of the
kittens? Why did you do that?

BERNARD
Oh my God! Are the kittens alright??

Little MEWS from the box

MR BABY / KENNETH
Ahhh, I feel stronger! Less bendy,
but stronger!

BERNARD

It's alright! The kittens are fine!
And their mother looks somewhat
relieved.

MAGENTA

You can't just go around possessing
TV personalities, Mr Baby! What d'you
think you're playing at?

MR BABY / KENNETH

You didn't think I'd stay trapped in
a litter of weak little kittens, did
you? I have things to do. People to
see. *Portals to open!* Mwahahaha!

MAGENTA

It was already open.

MR BABY / KENNETH

Well yes, but only partially. I
intend to open it to its furthest
point!

MAGENTA / BERNARD

You want to do what?? Oh you sod! Mr
Baby!

LINDSAY

You planned this! You planned this
whole thing!

MR BABY

I mean, sort of. Some of it was
planned. There was quite a lot of
improvisation.

MAGENTA

This isn't a murder mystery party, Mr
Baby, don't make us piece together a
bunch of cryptic clues. Explain
yourself. From the beginning!

MR BABY

Alright. I suppose I have time while
Jormundgandr clears the rubble from
the doorway to the other realm.
Thanks Jormo!

Jorms gives an UNEARTHLY SCREECH.

MR BABY (cont'd)

That's right! Jormundgandr is an old
friend.

MAGENTA / BERNARD

No! You're joking! Goodness.

MR BABY

When I came through the portal and became trapped in this realm - trapped by YOU, witch, in a *chalk circle* of all things, oh the ignominy! -

MAGENTA

Is that how it's pronounced?

BERNARD

Is it ignominy? Or ignominy?

MR BABY

Who cares! You understand what I mean, so what does it matter! As I was saying, when I became *ignominiously* trapped here, I called through the portal to my brethren for help! And Jormudgandr heard my plea. He came to save me. He shook the foundations and freed me from the cursed circle.

LINDSAY

But you didn't need to be saved. We were helping you. We were trying to get you home!

MR BABY

You expect me to trust you! You who bound me with filthy witch magic! Why should I trust *you* when you won't extend the same courtesy to me!

MAGENTA

Fair point.

BERNARD

Yeah, we should've let you out of the circle when we started becoming friends, really.

MR BABY

Without trust, there can be no friendship! And only a fool trusts a human! You who destroy the balance! You who raze these forests to bare earth. Who destroys that which nourishes and sustains you.

(MORE)

MR BABY (cont'd)

Thou art parasites; killing the host upon which you depend! If you can't save yourselves, how am I to trust you would save a stranger?

MAGENTA

Oof. Harsh, but again, fair point.

BERNARD

That is a bitter pill to swallow, and no mistake.

LINDSAY

I feel attacked. But maybe I *should*.

MR BABY

If there was one to trust, it was the elder witch. I sensed a deep wisdom in her.

BERNARD

That's hard to believe.

LINDSAY

Dad!

MR BABY

It was thanks to the elder witch that I knew what I had to do.

MAGENTA

My mother *helped* you?

MR BABY

She did. She showed me the way. (*a layer of Seraphina's voice under Mr Baby's*) 'We could demolish the rectory. Raze it to the ground. Let not one stone remain. That would open the gateway.'
The elder witch spaketh thus, and she knew I heard her wisdom.

LINDSAY

Where is granny now? What have you and your big snake friend done to her?

MR BABY

She is... fine.

MAGENTA / BERNARD

I knew it! Thank goodness for that.

MR BABY

Jormundgandr tells me he pushed her through the portal before the roof collapsed.

MAGENTA

Oh, that's good.

LINDSAY

Wait wait wait. What's happened??

MR BABY

She is in the other realm.

MAGENTA

Oh God, that's a relief.

LINDSAY

Is it?? Is it?? Doesn't feel like a relief to me!

Jormundgand SCREECHES again

MR BABY

Jormundgand asks that I clear the final stone and prepare the way. It is time!
Smell ya later, humans.

Mr Baby walks off.

LINDSAY

Where's he going?

MAGENTA

Towards the huge hole in the ground where the house used to be.

Kenneth begins CHANTING in the distance

BERNARD

Oh God, he's chanting. That can't be good.

MAGENTA

(sotto) Think, Magenta, think. There must be something I can do... but what??

BERNARD

What would happen if I tackled him to the ground?

LINDSAY

I imagine he'd levitate you like he's currently doing with that huge lump of rock.

MAGENTA

Quite. Stay where you are, Bernie.

LINDSAY

What happens when the portal is completely cleared?

MAGENTA

A narrow country road becomes a six lane highway, that's what.

Kenneth's CHANTING slowly reaches a climax.

LINDSAY

Ummm. So lots of traffic then? What sort of vehicles do you think we can expect? Monster trucks?

MAGENTA

If Jormundgandr's anything to go by, we can expect creatures hitherto assumed to be mythical. And if Mr Baby's anything to go by, a few incorporeal forms looking for a meat suit.

BERNARD

In that case, I really think we should try and stop Mr Baby Kenneth from cutting the ribbon on the new highway, don't you?

The SOUND of the portal opening.

MAGENTA

Too late.

The SOUND of beasties starting to come through.

Everyone KEENS with fear.

KENNETH mwahahahaas.

MAGENTA (cont'd)

And here come the first arrivals.

BERNARD

What are those things coming out of the hole? That one's got a little grappling hook.

KENNETH

Greetings, friends!

MAGENTA

Nobody move. Don't draw their attention.

PIXIE sounds.

LINDSAY

Oh, look, they're tiny!

Much girthier SCREECH.

LINDSAY (cont'd)

OK. That one isn't.

BERNARD

Are we a bit exposed here?

LINDSAY

We could back into the woods?

BERNARD

We could. Although, you know, I don't think Kenneth locked his Porsche.

MAGENTA

Really? Are you sure?

BERNARD

That is the sort of thing I notice.

MAGENTA

In that case, maybe we should go and check out the upholstery. Come on.

BERNARD

Mmmm!

MAGENTA

Jeb, you coming?

JEB

Yep.

MAGENTA

Let's all start walking over there. Slowly! Stick to the tree line.

LINDSAY

Ohhh. Why'd he park so far away?

MAGENTA

Y'know, when we're safe inside, I think it might be time time to... call Coven Co. I'm not sure we can do this on our own.

BERNARD

Yes. Good idea, darling.

MAGENTA

They better be the real deal, or I'll leave a very strongly worded review--

PIXIE

(distant) Look! Humans!

BERNARD

Oh shit. I think they heard you.

MAGENTA

Oops.

BERNARD / LINDSAY / MAGENTA

Run!

Tune in next episode for the BIG FINALE! Ooooh...