

Mockery Manor SEASON 2  
Episode 6  
'Synthetic Banana'  
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 6: Synthetic  
Banana.

INT. CUCKOO HOTEL

Dramatic ambient MUSIC.

GRETCHEN

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.

BETTE

Oh my God.

Two KNOCKS on the door. A bellhop appears.

BELLHOP

'Knock knock'!  
Sorry, the door was open. Room  
service!

BETTE

Oh yes!

JJ

Oooh, you ordered room service?

BELLHOP

On the table?

BETTE

Yes, lovely, thanks.

GRETCHEN

Oh come on!

BETTE  
Ooh! A silver dome.

BELLHOP  
Schnitzel! Very crispy.

BETTE  
I do love room service.

BELLHOP  
Do your friends want to order anything?

GRETCHEN  
No!

THOMAZ  
Nothing for me thanks.

JJ  
Oh! Can I have some chips?

GRETCHEN  
For God's sake.

BETTE  
No, they're leaving soon. Thank you.  
Here. Tip.

TINKLE of coins.

BELLHOP  
Keep it. That is a humiliatingly small amount.  
Enjoy.

He SHUTS the door behind him.

BETTE  
Schnitzel, anyone?

GRETCHEN  
Schnitzel?? I just told you my friend was killed! And you want to share schnitzel?

JJ  
You don't know he was killed though, do you?

GRETCHEN  
What??

JJ

I mean, he might've just left and not told you. I do that all the time. Y'know: adventure calls, or there's a l'il bit of trouble, or I've upset someone or whatever, and it's just easier to, y'know... hit the road.

GRETCHEN

Gunther was not some dropout, he would not have done that.

JJ

(shocked) Drop-out? Excuse me? Are you calling me a drop-out?

GRETCHEN

And before he disappeared, Gunther told me something was going on at the park. So it's... it's connected!

JJ

You don't even know me! A drop-out!?

BETTE

(mutters) If the shoe fits...

Bette OPENS A CAN. PSST!

JJ

Pardon? What was that, Bette? Care to share it with the class?

BETTE

(louder) I said, 'if the shoe fits.' Your friend here seems to have the measure of you already.

JJ

Oh my Gawd.

GRETCHEN

It's my gut, it never fails...

JJ

Just cos I'm not some judgey, holier-than-thou judgey wudgey, grump-faced, can't have a good time, goodness me no, how terribly vulgar and embarrassing--

BETTE

I've grown up! That's all. Whereas you lost the plot!

JJ

No, you lost the plot. When I came to find you at Rishikesh, you thought you were some kind of transcendental being.

BETTE

It's called spirituality.

JJ

You wouldn't even speak!

BETTE

It's called silent meditation!  
I left you a note at the hostel.

JJ

Ha! The *note!* '*Dear JJ, I'm like, totally connecting to my yoni, man.*'

BETTE

(shouts) I was looking for peace! And you are too! Admit it! But you can't party the pain away, JJ.

JJ

And you can't... bore the pain away!

BETTE

Excuse me? Boring? I'm twice as fun as you. I'm *cool*.

JJ

You were cool when you were 16. That was a long time ago!

BETTE

And you think you're cool now? Ha!

JJ

Yeah well, I'm cooler than you!

THOMAZ

Oh my God, SHUT UP.

Stunned silence.

THOMAZ (cont'd)

That's better. Now pretend you don't hate each other. This is making my nerves jingle jangle.

GRETCHEN

None of you are going to help me, are you? You are too wrapped up in your own nonsense. Fine. Fine! Just don't get in my way.

Gretchen marches out. OPENS and SLAMS door.

THOMAZ

Gretchen! Wait! Oh dear. (sighs) I should talk to her about this 'Gunther'.

BETTE

Oh God, do you really think her friend was bumped off? Because that's actually reallu alarming. Maybe this isn't about 'industrial espionage'.

THOMAZ

I do not know if he was bumped off. I do not know a lot, it seems. I need to get back to park. Hilda will have seen we are gone.

JJ

Are you gonna tell her my sister's here?

THOMAZ

No. Not now. Not when I do not know what she is capable of.  
(shouts) This is very bad!

JJ

Woah, alright.

THOMAZ

I have been blindly following orders. I have been refusing to look too close, in case I did not like what I see.

BETTE

I think we all do that.  
(pointed) Some more than others.

JJ

Why are you looking at me for?

THOMAZ

I have been lying to myself. Me!  
Thomaz! Who marched in the Golaniad!  
(MORE)

THOMAZ (cont'd)

A proud hoodlum against the state  
machine! I forget who I am! All that  
I have gone through...

(sings)

Mai bine haimana,  
Decît tr?d?tor,  
Mai bine huligan,  
Decît dictator

JJ

Aaaand he's singing.

BETTE

(mutters) Trust you to befriend a  
weirdo.

JJ

Oh shut up, Bette.

BETTE

You shut up!

JJ

Go take another vow of silence, give  
us all a break.

BETTE

YOU take a vow of silence!

JJ

No YOU--

THOMAZ

I go now, before you two start  
bickering again.

BETTE

Thomaz, if you find anything out, can  
you let me know?

THOMAZ

No, sorry. You will pass it on to  
this Mockery place. I do not know who  
they are.

BETTE

OK. That's fair enough. We'll just  
conduct separate investigations,  
then.

JJ

I'm not investigating shit. Sorry.  
Sucks to be you guys, but... I'm out  
of here.

BETTE  
Out of here?

JJ  
Yeah that's right.

BETTE  
What, out of Dunkelschloss??

JJ  
Yep. I'm getting the first bus to  
anywhere that's not a flipping theme  
park. Today, in fact. No time like  
the present. See ya.

She walks to the door.

BETTE  
Wait, JJ!

JJ  
Bette, I can't stay here. Not if  
there's weird shit going down. I'm  
sorry. There's nothing you can do or  
say to stop me.

JJ OPENS the door.

BETTE  
I have a child.

JJ stops. Music starts.

JJ  
You what?

BETTE  
I got pregnant at the ashram.

Door SHUTS.

JJ  
Pregnant? But... what... *what*? How?  
Who?

BETTE  
Guy who ran the place. Bloody  
Jaagriti - real name Raymond  
Figgins - the San Francisco guru.

JJ  
You had a baby?

BETTE  
Freddie. That's his name.

JJ  
You're a mum? I'm an aunt?

BETTE  
And we're broke. I've given Freddie the worst start in life. I'm a terrible mum. But I want to be better, and this is how I'm going to do it. But it won't work unless you stay, JJ. So please stay. Will you?

SAD MUSIC.

EXT. TRUCK LOADING BAY, MOCKERY MANOR

A NOISY lorry bay.

Jenkins is overseeing the loading of a truck.

JENKINS  
(calls) Be careful with that! Max, go and help him, will you.

Jenkins DOOBEEDOOs, enjoying himself.

Parker approaches.

PARKER  
Alright, Jenkins.

JENKINS  
Oh. Parker. Hello. What are you doing in the lorry bay?

PARKER  
Looking for you. Margot told me where you were.

JENKINS  
(surprised) She knew I was here? Huh. She must be paying more attention than I thought.

PARKER  
Jenkins, can we--

Clang!

JENKINS  
(calls) Careful, I said! Goodness me.



PARKER

Can we talk about something?

JENKINS

I'm busy, Parker. Can it wait?

PARKER

Uh, I'd rather not...  
'ere, what's going on, anyway? Are they... are they the arcade machines from Roswell? What are they doing being loaded into a truck?

JENKINS

They're going to Wizzard's Palace of Wax in Holland, as part of the European exchange programme.

PARKER

Shouldn't I have known about this? I am the assistant manager after all--

JENKINS

And I'm in charge of the exchange programme. Nothing for you to concern yourself with, my boy.

PARKER

Right.  
Why does a wax museum need alien-themed arcade machines?

JENKINS

Maybe they're shaking things up.

PARKER

Oh. If it's an exchange programme, does that mean we're gonna get a load of waxworks?

JENKINS

No, we're not gonna get a load of--

PARKER

Where we gonna put 'em?

JENKINS

Look, do you really want me to explain our European operations? I warn you, it's very, very boring. Come on, let's move over here where it's a bit quieter and you can tell me what's on your mind.

They WALK.

PARKER

Oh! Yeah, is that OK? Great, thanks.

JENKINS

Right. Now. What can I do for you?

PARKER

I don't really know how to broach this, so I'm just gonna say it.

JENKINS

Righty-ho. Go ahead.

PARKER

Jenkins, where did you bury Smithy?

Beat.

JENKINS

What the f--

PARKER

(interrupts) I need to know. It's important.

Jenkins GRABS Parker. He makes an 'uh' sound.

JENKINS

Why the hell would you ask me that?

PARKER

I wanna, I wanna visit Smithy's grave. Yeah.

JENKINS

*Why?*

PARKER

To say sorry.

JENKINS

You don't have anything to be sorry for, you buffoon. You didn't do anything.

PARKER

I did. I did. He's dead because of me.

JENKINS

What on earth...??

PARKER

I came to you all those years ago. I told you I'd seen Smithy doing something to the ride, just before me dad was killed on it. Remember?

JENKINS

Course I bloody do!

PARKER

I wanted revenge, Jenkins! And then you went and... you disappeared him.

JENKINS

Exactly. *Me*. Not you. I dealt with it. You were just a child. You think I'd ever let a child tell me what to do?

PARKER

No, I guess not, but... but... I said--

JENKINS

Nor would I have taken your word for it. There might have been a [erfectly rational explanation for why Smithy was tampering with the ride. So I questioned him first. And he bragged to me, Parker. Smithy was proud of what he'd done.

PARKER

Smithy *confessed*?

JENKINS

Yes. Even your father's sickness, the one that baffled the doctors...

PARKER

What about it?

JENKINS

Rat poison. Smithy told me he'd been poisoning your father for months. But it was taking too long, so he fixed it so the ride would crush him.

PARKER

Ohhhh my God. Oh my gawd.

JENKINS

So if this sudden hysteria is 'guilt', you squash that right now.

(MORE)

JENKINS (cont'd)  
And if you ever bring this up again -  
to anyone! If I hear you're turning  
into a liability....

Jenkins controls himself. A RAGGED BREATH.

JENKINS (cont'd)  
Just get a bloody grip.

PARKER  
I know. I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

JENKINS  
Loose lips sink ships, and this  
particular ship contains everyone you  
hold dear; me, Margot, your mother.

PARKER  
My mum?

JENKINS  
If she found out your father's death  
wasn't an accident... and that you  
knew all these years and hadn't told  
her or the police... do you think  
she'd be happy?

PARKER  
This is a nightmare. This place, it's  
evil.

JENKINS  
Don't be ridiculous. This is your  
home. And it's Smithy who was evil.  
Norton and his grotesque offspring,  
they're evil. But the rest of us, we  
simply protect the ones we love.  
Don't we?

PARKER  
I..I guess so. I dunno. Yeah.

JENKINS  
(sighs) What on earth brought this  
on, Parker?

PARKER  
Nothing. Everything. Jenkins, it's  
always there. It's getting harder to  
hide.

JENKINS  
That's rather troublesome.

PARKER

Jenkins, please, just tell me, where is Smithy buried?

JENKINS

I had no idea you were in such turmoil, Parker. That you think I'm a murderer. You think I'm capable of that? Of course. All this time you've assumed I killed him.

PARKER

What?

JENKINS

And I never corrected you. But he's not dead, Parker. I just scared him off, that's all.

PARKER

What? No. No. No no no. I remember, you told me--

JENKINS

I never told you anything.

PARKER

But I'm sure you did... I said is he dead? And then you...

JENKINS

I didn't say a word. Did I? Cast your mind back.

PARKER

But... but you let me believe he was dead! That you'd done it--

JENKINS

It was better that way.

PARKER

It was??

JENKINS

You were a child. A terrified, angry, grieving child. I didn't want you to be scared he'd return. A killer, rearing out of the shadows.

PARKER

Smithy's still alive...

JENKINS

Parker, why don't you have some time off work? Knock off early today. Go home, have a bath.

PARKER

A, a bath?

JENKINS

And a whiskey. Treat yourself.

PARKER

OK. Yeah. Actually, could I have a bit longer? A week, maybe?

JENKINS

A week? We're in high season, Parker.

PARKER

Yeah, but my melon's all twisted, Jenkins.

JENKINS

Work will take your mind off things.

PARKER

I might make a mistake. And you make a mistake in a theme park... people get hurt.

JENKINS

Alright then. Davina can cover for you.

PARKER

Thank you.

JENKINS

But Parker... if you feel odd, during your little holiday, you call me right away. Do you hear? I want to know first. No-one else would understand.

A CLANG as another arcade machine is dropped.

JENKINS (cont'd)

Oh for Pete's sake, what's wrong with them? Excuse me, Parker.

Jenkins WALKS OFF.

JENKINS (cont'd)  
 (calls) Have you dented it?? Where's  
 the forklift!

PARKER  
 (sotto, to himself) Jenkins... who  
 are you?

A disturbing WHRRRR of ambient sound swells.

INT. UNIDENTIFIED FRYING OBJECTS DINER

'50s SPACE MUSIC.

A waitress shows a family to their table. She is desperately trying to keep her American accent consistent.

'AMERICAN' WAITRESS  
 Yeehaw, welcome to the Unidentified  
 Frying Objects Diner! Would you like  
 a table or a booth. Sorry, losing me  
 accent there... yeehaw. Yeehaw. Howdy  
 doody. Ah, there it is!

MAN OF FAMILY  
 We'll have a booth please, luv. Ooh  
 it's hot in 'ere, like being down  
 bloody pit.

AMERICAN WAITRESS  
 This way, pardners. Pardners? P...  
 pardners...

CHILD  
 Muuum, Sally's kicking me!

CHILD SALLY  
 No I'm nooooot.

DINER ANNOUNCEMENT (PAUL)  
 Greetings! It's a mysterious voice  
 from the sky, woooo! Haha. No no, I'm  
 only joking, I'm the Unidentified  
 Frying Objects Diner supervisor,  
 Paul, just here to say, yes, it's  
 unusually hot here today at Mockery  
 Manor, and boy howdy, are we  
 regretting making this diner out of  
 tin! I have had requests to turn the  
 air conditioning on, but bad news,  
 that's not possible...

GROANS from the diners.

DINER ANNOUNCEMENT (PAUL) (cont'd)  
 ...because we don't have air conditioning, because this is England. Sorry about that. Enjoy your dining experience at the UFO Diner, and be sure to keep an eye out for little green men. If you find one, you get a free child-size slushie in the flavour pink.

A second waitress goes to a secluded booth in the corner.

AMERICAN WAITRESS  
 Heehaw, hey there, yo ho ho, are you ready to order?

DAVINA  
 You don't have to do the accent with us, love.

AMERICAN WAITRESS  
 Oh. I don't mind, though.

MARGOT  
 I will have the chicken in a basket. Thank you.

DAVINA  
 I'll have the scampi, and we'll both have banana milkshakes.

AMERICAN WAITRESS  
 (English accent) Yeehaw, coming right up, lickety-split.

The waitress leaves.

DAVINA  
 God, it's boiling. I'm sweating cobs.

MARGOT  
 This has become my favourite place in the park.

DAVINA  
 Really?? God, you're an odd one, Margot Mockery.

MARGOT  
 Don't you like it?



DAVINA

Oh yeah, I love me a faux leather  
banquette. Love peelin' me thighs off  
the seat.

SQUEAK.

MARGOT

The risk of hot-pants, Davina.

DAVINA

Beauty is pain, Margot. Ooh.

She PEELS a leg off the seat with a FARTY SQUEAK.

DAVINA (cont'd)

Oof! Can I nick your place mat? Gonna  
sit on it. Ahhh, that's better. Ooh,  
me thighs.

CHILD SALLY

There's a alien in my chips!

DAVINA

They're all chapped.

CHILD

Give it!

CHILD SALLY

Noooo-ahhh!

DAVINA

Yeah, can see why you like it here.  
Dead relaxing.

MARGOT

It's quieter than the Manor. The  
crying, the screams... I thought they  
were coming from inside my head, and  
then I remembered... there's a baby  
in the house.

DAVINA

Oh yeah, how is little Freddie? Is he  
missing him mam? Where is he, by the  
way?

MARGOT

I left him in his playpen, gurgling  
away quite happily, sucking on a gin-  
soaked rag.

DAVINA

Oooh Margot, I don't think they like you doing that nowadays. Dunno why. Maybe it gives 'em a taste for it.

MARGOT

I'll bring him next time. He's a darling child. So happy. I hope he escapes the Mockery curse.

DAVINA

You didn't tell me you were cursed! Ohhh, did an old woman seek shelter at the manor in a storm, and a Mockery turned her away? Is that it? Or one of the heirlooms, is it cursed? Is that it?

MARGOT

Not a literal curse, Davina. I just meant we seem to be unlucky.

DAVINA

Oh right, yeah.

AMERICAN WAITRESS

(bad American accent) Here's your bah-naw milkshakes.

MARGOT

Thank you.  
So did you find anything..?

DAVINA

Oh yeah. Deffo.

MARGOT

Oh no.

DAVINA

There's some creative accountancy going on, babes, that's for sure.

MARGOT

Oh Jenkins, what are you playing at?

DAVINA

I made copies, they're in me safe at home. The originals are in here.

She OPENS a cake tin.

MARGOT

A cake tin.

DAVINA

I thought about using a manila folder, but that sort of screams 'look, important secret documents', don't you think?  
Give it back when you're done with it, that's me favourite cake tin.

She CLOSES the cake tin.

MARGOT

Did anyone notice, or ask what you wanted?

DAVINA

No-one pays attention to me, pet.

MARGOT

Even in hot-pants?

DAVINA

Obviously they do in hot-pants. But for this, I used me secret wardrobe of sensible, age-appropriate outfits. An old coat and a long skirt, and people's eyes just slide over me. A person-shaped hole in space and time.

MARGOT

The cloak of irrelevance.

DAVINA

Yeah, it's crap innit. Still, comes in handy.

Davina SLURPS MILKSHAKE.

Mmm synthetic banana.  
So, what happens now?

MARGOT

I have made an appointment. To update my will.

DAVINA

Oh, that's optimistic. What else?  
(beat)  
Oh Margot... don't tell me you don't have a plan?

MARGOT

How can I plan when I don't know what's happening, or who to trust?

DAVINA

You've got me, babes. And your  
nieces, too.

MARGOT

JJ and Bette? What help could they  
offer?

DAVINA

Yeah, nothin. Couldn't find their  
arse with their hands, those two.  
Y'know babes, something's been  
bothering me. Why did Jenkins send  
Bette to Dunkelschloss. What did he  
tell ya, exactly?

MARGOT

That he thought she needed to spend  
some time with her sister.

DAVINA

That's nice of him. Do you believe  
it?

MARGOT

What do you mean? He wasn't lying  
about that: I saw the plane ticket  
before she went. She's in Germany.

DAVINA

Mmm.

MARGOT

What is it? You're worried.

DAVINA

(unconvincing) What, me? No, no no,  
it's fine, no, don't worry babes.

MARGOT

Davina...

DAVINA

Y'know, there's probably nothing to  
worry about at all. Jenkins is such a  
boring old stick, whatever he's doing  
is bound to be legal and above board.  
I bet he found some tax loophole or  
something, just forgot to tell ya.  
And he'd never put you in danger,  
would he? No! So how bad can it  
really get?

Davina SLURPS MILKSHAKE.

MUSIC swells.

INT. CUCKOO HOTEL

JJ and Bette theme music plays.

BETTE

JJ, will you stay? For me?

Music stops.

JJ

No. Sorry.

BETTE

What the hell! I just told you - I have a child! I'm broke!

JJ

I can't, Bette. I can't get tangled up with Mockery again. That place is bad news. If we take their money, we'll owe them.

BETTE

It's the best option. The only option.

JJ

It's not.

BETTE

I'm asking for your help, JJ!

JJ

And I'm going to help you. Look, I just need to get something from the woods, and then we can get out of here - go to Berlin, maybe - and then we can gonna figure out how to sell it, and we'll both be set for life.

BETTE

'Something' from the woods? What's that then? Magic beans?

THOMAZ

Ahhh! You mean the Vermeer?

BETTE

Are you still here?

THOMAZ

Oh, yes. The baby revelation was quite compelling...

JJ

How do you know about the Vermeer?

THOMAZ

Hilda listened in to your phone conversation with the petty crook with the ear wax... 'Eric'?

BETTE

Eric? Oh no. Ugh, you don't mean..?

JJ

Dodgy Eric, yeah.

BETTE

Ugh! You've been in contact with *him*?? And what's a... Werwerrr, anyway?

THOMAZ

Vermeer. Johannes Vermeer.

BETTE

Who's that?

THOMAZ

17th century Dutch painter. One of his works was stolen two years ago from a museum in Boston, America.

BETTE

JJ, what's this about?

JJ

OK. Don't freak out please. On balance, it's a good thing that it fell into my hands. It could be our ticket to, like, quite a nice life.

BETTE

So this painting is important? How much is this thing worth?

JJ

I don't know. But... a lot. Like, tens of thousands, or maybe hundreds of thousands.

BETTE

Bloody hell.

THOMAZ

Hmmmmmm. Eeeeeee.

JJ

Why are you making that noise?

THOMAZ

I don't think it's worth that.

JJ

(disappointed) Oh no, don't say that. Really?

THOMAZ

Yes. I'm actually very certain it's not worth that.

BETTE

How do you know?

THOMAZ

I was Professor of art history back in Bucharest. And now I wear Eurobear costume, so that's fun.

JJ

How much is it worth then?

THOMAZ

Well, y'know, about, eh... now this is only approximate, remember, based on a number of factors...

JJ

Just tell me.

Thomaz EXHALES GUSTILY.

THOMAZ

Somewhere in the region of \$200 million US dollars.

BETTE / JJ

Ohhh FU--

CHIRPY MUSIC cuts in abruptly.

CREDITS

If you're enjoying Mockery Manor, you'll also enjoy another of our podcasts: Madame Magenta Sonos Mystica.

(MORE)

## CREDITS (cont'd)

It's a semi improvised comedy storytelling series in which Lindsay plays the powerful but slightly over-it psychic and medium Madame Magenta, and I play her loyal husband Bernard. Together we battle dark forces, and commune with the spirits to solve real world problems sent in by you, the listeners.

For more information, click the link in the show notes of this episode, or search Madame Magenta wherever you get your podcasts.

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

Hayley Evenett was JJ and Bette  
Laurence Owen was Parker, Jenkins, Paul, the Bellhop and additional voices  
Lindsay Sharman was Margot, Davina and additional voices  
Abbie Eastwood was Gretchen and the Waitress  
and Alasdair Beckett King was Tomas