

M&B Paranormal Investigations
Episode 4
Lone Wolf
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Everything else by Laurence Owen

BERNARD
Previously on M&B Paranormal
Investigation...

INT. BEDROOM

DEMON
First; gather your coven.

BERNARD
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.

Musical flourish.

BERNARD
Gosh, that was dramatic!

DEMON
Well... seemed appropriate.

MAGENTA
Ughh! Do I really have to join a
coven? (muses) Maybe I could start my
own...

BERNARD
I mean, the way you went, 'you're not
going to manage this on your own!'

DEMON

I didn't say it like that.

BERNARD

I'm probably not doing it justice.

DEMON

I feel silly now. You've made me feel silly.

BERNARD

I didn't mean to. It was great! Your delivery... the *gravitas* of it all, wonderful stuff, really felt the fire and brimstone.

DEMON

Oh yeah?

BERNARD

You've a real knack for the big moments.

BEEP BOOP BEEP of mobile phone.

DEMON

(sniffs) Thanks very much.

PHONE LADY

Welcome to the EE voicemail--

MAGENTA

--Answerphone. Of course.

BERNARD

Who are you calling, dear?

MAGENTA

(whispers) Lindsay. Going to ask her to start a coven with me.

BERNARD

Oh! Fab!

Muffled BEEP of answerphone.

MAGENTA

Oh oh, the beep. Hello darling, just me.

BERNARD

And me! Hello!

MAGENTA

Oh yes. Call us back as soon as you get this. Something terrible has happened. I mean, it's not rally terrible, not yet anyway, I don't want to worry you so just call me back! Kiss kiss! Byee!

DEMON

Who's Lindsay?

BERNARD

Our daughter. Goodness me! Do you think she'll be up for this?

MAGENTA

Not really. You know what she's like about magic.

BERNARD

Still, worth a try.

MAGENTA

Always worth a punt. Besides, what other choice do I have? It's not like there's a local coven I can ask to join.

BERNARD

Well, there is Coven Co...

DEMON

You're going to need more than two members for a coven. Three minimum.

MAGENTA

Yes, I know. God, I better call my mother.

BERNARD

Your mother? Really!? Isn't there anyone else?

BEEP

MAGENTA

Bernard, if there was literally anyone else, don't you think I'd ask them first?

BERNARD

Well, there is Coven Co...

DEMON

Three generations from the same family... a classic. The Triple Goddess structure.

BRING BRING (

MAGENTA

Oooh shhshhh, it's ringing. Pick up the phone, you old witch.

BERNARD

(whispers) What's the Triple Goddess...?

DEMON

Three witches, symbolic of the full, half and new moon. The maiden, the mother and the crone.

BERNARD

I wonder when the transition from mother to crone is?

MAGENTA

45 if you're a Hollywood casting agent.

A distant 'hello? Can you hear me?' through the phone.

DEMON

Erm, I think your mother's on the line.

MAGENTA

Shit! Hello mumsy!

MUM ON PHONE

Did you bottom-dial me again?

BERNARD

Hello Sarafina!

MUM ON PHONE

Who's that? Derrick?

BERNARD

No, it's Bernard.

MUM ON PHONE

Derrick! My favourite son-in-law!

MAGENTA

You know full-well it's not Derrick.
He's dead, isn't he.

MUM ON PHONE

Shame. I liked him.

MAGENTA

Well, you were the only one. Now
mother, I'm arranging a little...
family get-together...

BEEP BEEP

INT. CAR - NEXT DAY

BERNARD

Hello! Bernard here! We're in the car
again; the Paranor-mobile, as I'm
going to start calling it.

MAGENTA

I like that!

BERNARD

D'ya like that! Yes.
Today is an exciting day for 'M&B
Paranormal Investigations', because
we're on our way to see a very
special client. Except it's not
really a client; it's our daughter!
Who we're not normally allowed to
talk about on the podcast, but she's
given us permission this time! Which
is very weird, isn't it dear?

MAGENTA

Extremely out of character, and as
such, highly suspicious.
GET OUT OF THE ROAD YOU STUPID BIRD.

HONKS HORN

BERNARD

Look at him! Moseying across the
road, not a care in the world!

MAGENTA

(shouts) I'm not stopping next time!
Do you hear me, birds? Learn some
friggin' road safety!

BERNARD

I'm not sure they understand you,
dear.

MAGENTA

Not sure they're listening.

BERNARD

It's a shame you no longer have that
talky-animal esoteric ability, the Dr
Dolittle one. Would come in handy,
eh.

And that's a very handy segue for
where we're going today. Which is:
the zoo! Lindsay is a zoo-keeper at
BLEEEP safari and wildlife park.

MAGENTA

Bernard, you're gonna have to edit
that out. It might identify her.

BERNARD

Oh yes! I'll bleep that out in post.
So what happened is, dear listener,
Magenta asked Lindsay if she would be
willing to form a temporary coven to
seal the cosmic cat-flap our home is
built on. See last episode for all
the details on THAT.
But anyway, she said 'yes! sure
thing, come down to the zoo and we
can hammer out the details!' Let me
tell you; we were--

MAGENTA

Absolutely baffled.

BERNARD

Confused to say the least.

MAGENTA

Couldn't believe it. Do you think...
do you think she... no.

BERNARD

What?

MAGENTA

Well, maybe she's having problems
suppressing her abilities. Maybe
they're bubbling to the surface!

BERNARD

Oh gosh! And she wants you to teach her how to use them?

MAGENTA

She needs mummy's guidance! Mummy's wisdom.

BERNARD

What a wonderful bonding opportunity!

MAGENTA

Yes!
Unless it's like teaching her how to drive. Remember that?

BERNARD

Ohh. I'd prefer not to think about that.
There's the turning dear! BLEEEP zoo!
Ooooh exciting.

MAGENTA

Oh my God, there's a bloody grouse just SITTING in the entrance.

BERNARD

What's he doing!

MAGENTA

Bernard, can you get out shoo the bloody thing off the road.

BERNARD

Yes, alright.

CLICK of safety belt.

BEEP. BEEP.

INT. ZOO

BERNARD

Hello again. It's me again, Bernard the bird-scarer! The scourge of grouses.

MAGENTA

That doesn't sound right. Goose?

BERNARD

Grice?

MAGENTA

What's the plural of grouse?

LINDSAY

Well, it's... grouse.

BERNARD

And that, listeners, is the voice of an expert! We're outside the capybara enclosure wiiiiith .. (toots imaginary trumpet).. Lindsay! (beat) Go on. Say hello to the listeners.

LINDSAY

Hello.

BERNARD

The big debut!

LINDSAY

Dad, make sure you disguise my voice yeah? If anyone recognises me...

BERNARD

Don't worry, I'll add an effect in post.

MAGENTA

Y'know, I have to say, darling, we're a teensy bit surprised you've agreed to this whole 'coven' thing.

BERNARD

Incidentally, how do you pronounce coven?

LINDSAY

I dunno, never said it before.

BERNARD

But if you were to say it now..?

MAGENTA

So why the sudden acceptance of the esoteric? Any... new developments?

LINDSAY

(long sigh) Maybe.

MAGENTA / BERNARD

Oooh! Interesting.

LINDSAY

I need some help.

MAGENTA / BERNARD
 (keen, happy) Is something wrong?
 What what what? What can we do for
 you? Help with what?

LINDSAY
 A ghost.

MAGENTA
 Oh. That's not what I thought you
 were going to say, actually. But do
 go on. Tell us about this... ghost.

Spooky MUSIC

LINDSAY
 The first time I saw it, I was on
 night duty. About three in the
 morning, I was feeding the aardvarks
 when a great howl ripped through the
 zoo.

MEMORY HOWL

LINDSAY (cont'd)
 I swear, I've never felt more like
 prey. All the hairs on my neck stood
 up.

Spooky music stops

MAGENTA
 Ah. Hairy neck. You get that from me.
 We come from a long line of hirsute
 matriarchs.

BERNARD
 Magenta's mother's even hairier.

MAGENTA
 Isn't she! Like a chimp.

LINDSAY
 Er hello, I'm trying to tell a story.

BERNARD / MAGENTA
 Sorry.

LINDSAY
 Thanks.

Spooky music starts again

LINDSAY (cont'd)

The howls kept coming. One after the other. But we don't have wolves here. Not since the zoo first opened, and that was over a hundred years ago.

I have a duty to the animals. To protect them. I had to find out what was making that noise.

I found it on the highest point in the zoo. The summit of Goat Hill. A grey wolf, howling at the moon. Huge it was, with eyes the colour of amber.

Which is actually a common eye-colour for a wolf, so that's not really note-worthy. It was also see-through. Which is less common for the European grey wolf.

MAGENTA

But a common feature of ghosts.

BERNARD

Oh yes.

Spooky music stops.

LINDSAY

That was three months ago. And every night since, from midnight until dawn, there it is, howling on the summit of Goat Hill. It's affecting the other animals, they're getting really stressed out.

BERNARD

I bet!

LINDSAY

None of the keepers know *why* they're stressed except for me. And I can't tell anyone because they'll think I'm crazy.

MAGENTA

They can't see it?

LINDSAY

No. They can't hear it either. I'm the only one - well, the only *human* - who can.

I need your help to get rid of it, but we've got to be quiet about it.

MAGENTA

Of course, darling.

BERNARD

Absolutely.

MAGENTA

Goodness me. Fancy you being the only one who can see it! Mmm? Isn't that *interesting*.

LINDSAY

Don't look so smug, mum! Why are you smiling! It's not something to smile about!

MAGENTA

I'm not smiling! Am I? Am I smiling? I can't help it, I smile when I'm nervous!

LINDSAY

Nervous?

MAGENTA

It's them! Capybaras make me nervous!

BERNARD

They are very large for guinea pigs. I just had a thought: maybe it's a *grim*. You know; a sort of hellhound. They're VERY common.

MAGENTA

Good point, Bernard. Grims are ten a penny. Whereas the ghosts of animals: that's almost unheard of. You need to be a bit neurotic to hang around after death, y'know, anxious about unfinished business. 'Oh no, did I leave the front door unlocked'... whereas animals don't tend to worry about that sort of thing.

BERNARD

That's a good point, it's very human, isn't it?

MAGENTA

There are exceptions of course. Horses. You get the occasional ghost horse. Although ghost horses always come with a headless horseman or a creepy stagecoach. Maybe it's less about what the animal wants, and more about human ghosts not wanting to walk.

And of course, sometimes a particularly neurotic pet won't leave its owner, even in death.

BERNARD

So needy.

MAGENTA

Such a tie, isn't it. You can't go on holiday! I mean you can, but it's uncomfortable.

But *grims* were never pets. They might appear as dogs but they were never alive in the first place. Their spirit was never bound by mortal flesh, so strictly speaking, they're not ghosts. I don't know what their deal is, to be honest. What do they want? Nobody knows.

LINDSAY

OK, well, that's all fascinating, but this isn't a dog. It's a European grey wolf.

BERNARD

Grim are much larger than normal dogs so easy to mistake for a wolf.

LINDSAY

Dad, I work in a zoo and I have a masters in conservation. I know a European grey wolf when I see it.

BERNARD

Oh, sorry, of course you'd know! Hard to remember you're a grown-up sometimes. My little girl. So proud of you, you know.

LINDSAY

Oh God, don't cry.

BERNARD

I'm not crying! (crying) Hay-fever!
Pollen! Silly old pollen!

MAGENTA

There there, dear.
Gosh, the ghost of a wolf. That's
very unusual, you know. I suppose
wolves were indigenous to this
country a long time ago, maybe it's
one of them.

LINDSAY

No, he's not as old as that. When the
zoo first opened in 1986, they had a
European grey wolf. Male. It's him.

BERNARD

A Victorian ghost!

MAGENTA

A Victorian wolf-ghost.

BERNARD

Why are so many ghosts Victorian?

MAGENTA

Well that's a very good question,
Bernard! And I have a theory. You
see, mediums and clairvoyants were
very fashionable in the late 1800s.
Suddenly you had a lot of amateurs
holding seances and calling forth
spirits. And a lot of ghosts popping
up willy-nilly.

BERNARD

Were they making it up? Pretending to
see ghosts, just to be cool and
'with-it'?

MAGENTA

Certainly, probably, you know what
people are like. But my theory is,
all that messing around with the
occult created a sharp rise in oogly-
boogly esoteric energy. And that
energy helped manifest and
substantiate a whole batch of new
ghosts.
But that doesn't explain a Victorian
wolf-ghost. Let alone a Victorian
wolf-ghost who only started
manifesting 3 months ago.

(MORE)

MAGENTA (cont'd)

Presumably, he's been hanging around as nothing more than a wisp for over a hundred years, but now, suddenly... he's strong enough to spook the living. Fascinating.

BERNARD

Maybe there's been another rise in oogly-boogly energy??

MAGENTA

Bernard, that's just what I was thinking! You're getting good at this.

BERNARD

Yes yes! Y'know, I really think I'm attuning!
I just had another esoteric insight! This energy surge; is it to do with the cosmic cat-flap?

MAGENTA

No.

BERNARD

Oh.

MAGENTA

Too far away. I reckon the source is more local than that. Concentrated right here in this zoo, in fact.

LINDSAY

Yes, alright, it's me. I'm the source.

MAGENTA / BERNARD

Ooh! Goodness me!

LINDSAY

Ugh! Don't look so happy! It's not good!

BERNARD

You've never oozed oogly-boogly esoteric energy before, have you?

LINDSAY

Not like this.

MAGENTA

Did something happen three months ago, Lindsay?

LINDSAY
(defensive) No.

MAGENTA
Sure about that? Sure you didn't do something... esoteric?

LINDSAY
Ughh. Ughh! Maybe. OK. I bought a bag of runes.

BERNARD
You bought a bag of runes??
Voluntarily??

LINDSAY
And a crystal ball. And a scrying rod. I couldn't help it! They called to me.

MAGENTA
Oh my!

BERNARD
It begins!

MAGENTA
I knew it'd happen eventually! A hairy neck isn't the only family legacy.

LINDSAY
Mum, stop it! I don't want this!

MAGENTA
It's alright darling, there's no harm in dabbling. Then you can find out if you like it or not.

LINDSAY
Well I DON'T like it! And ever since I started dabbling, it's got worse and worse! I feel weird. I keep getting electric shocks off everything!

MAGENTA
Rubber plimsolls, that's what you need.

LINDSAY
And the wolf's not the only ghost I've seen.

(MORE)

LINDSAY (cont'd)
 There's an urchin living in my
 stairwell! He keeps asking if I want
 my shoes shined!

MAGENTA
 Just let him do it and he'll probably
 go away.

LINDSAY
 Nooooo-wahhh. I don't want him to
 shine my shoes! I don't want to see
 ghosts, full stop. I don't like it!

BERNARD
 If you don't like it, dear, why did
 you say yes to joining your mother's
 coven?

LINDSAY
 Cos I need to learn how to control
 it. I need to learn how to make it go
 away. You'll help me, won't you mum?

MAGENTA
 Of course darling! Although sometimes
 covens actually amplify one's powers,
 but I'm sure that won't happen to you
 dear, we'll figure something out,
 don't you worry.
 But we can't do that until we deal
 with this wolf, can we? And after
 that, we'll move onto control.

BERNARD
 And lest we forget, the cosmic cat-
 flap.

BEEP.

ADVERT.

INT. ZOO - NIGHT

WOLF HOWL. Arooooooooooooo!

BERNARD
 (hushed) Oh wow. You hear that? The
 howl of a Victorian ghost-wolf.

Awooooo!

MAGENTA
 Yes!
 (MORE)

MAGENTA (cont'd)
Hang on. You can hear that?

BERNARD
Yes. Why? (realises) Oh wow! Holy fuzzballs! I can hear the ghost!

MAGENTA
You really are tuning in. That's alarming.

Awoooooo again.

BERNARD
There it is again! Oh my goodness! Oh this is a lot to process!

MAGENTA
We'll talk about it later, alright. Lindsay? Are you ready?

LINDSAY
No. Why aren't you doing this? You're the expert!

MAGENTA
Because we don't need a paranormal expert; we need a *wolf* expert. So, off you go!

LINDSAY
OK.

MAGENTA
We'll be right here if you need us, by the aardvarks.

BERNARD
Good luck sweetie!

LINDSAY
(steeling self) OK OK. I can do this. It's just another animal that needs my help.

BERNARD
That's the spirit!

LINDSAY
I can do this. OK!

MAGENTA
See you soon!

She leaves.

BERNARD

Do you think she'll be alright? Is it too much, expecting her to handle this on her own?

MAGENTA

Gotta shove 'em out the nest at some point, Bernie. Do you want a fizzy pop from that vending machine?

BERNARD

Oooh lovely. Thank you, dear.

MAGENTA

They might have some crisps as well.

BERNARD

Ooh if they've got any of those KP nuts...
I'm just going to explain to the listeners what's going on.

MAGENTA

Mmhmm.

BERNARD

Hello listener.
I bet you're wondering, how did we formulate a plan? Well, I'm gonna tell you! The key to solving any ghostly dilemma is psychology! You have to get inside the ghost's head. What do they want? What drives them? And we theorised that a wolf would want to know where its pack is. That's what Lindsay said all the howling might be about. He's saying, 'hey guys, I'm right here!'

MAGENTA

Oh that's really sad, isn't it? Isn't that sad. Poor thing. Orange? Cola?

BERNARD

Cola please, thank you.

MAGENTA

Quavers?

BERNARD

Go on, I'm not driving!
(MORE)

BERNARD (cont'd)

Obviously some Victorian zoo-keeper separated our wolf from his pack a long time ago, but if he crosses over, he should be able to find them. So we need to communicate that to the old fella. Obviously Magenta can't just *tell* him, like she normally would, because he doesn't speak English. So we have to speak 'wolf'. More specifically, *Lindsay* has to speak 'wolf', because she knows about wolf body language and all that.

MAGENTA

Not to mention, this is her territory. If I went up to this wolf, he'd be like 'who the hell are you?'. Whereas he knows *Lindsay* belongs here. He'll recognise her as one of the creatures he shares space with. So she's not a threat.

BERNARD

Very clever. But apparently, that's not enough. For the wolf to really pay attention, *Lindsay* has to assert dominance. To do that, she's going to take a long wee on the ground right in front of him while maintaining direct eye contact, and then, she's going to do a great big long howl.

MAGENTA

That's why we're hanging back, to give her a bit of privacy.

BERNARD

Yeah.

MAGENTA

We don't want to see that, do we?

BERNARD

Not at all.

MAGENTA

I mean, we didn't know about the weeing and all the rest of it. She suggested it.

BERNARD

She brought it up. So...

MAGENTA

Her fault.

BERNARD

Anyway, after the weeing and the howling, she'll have his full attention, and that's when she sort of... melds minds with the wolf. I'm less clear on this part, to be honest. Magenta, do you wanna? Take over?

MAGENTA

I mean, who knows if the mind-meld will even work, it's a lot to ask of a beginner. But I'm gonna give her a little esoteric energy boost from a distance, I think that should help. It's not the combined power of the coven, but hopefully it's enough for her to complete the job.

BERNARD

But what is she actually going to do?

MAGENTA

It's just a bit of visualisation, really, but using esoteric projection to beam straight into the wolf's energy field.

BERNARD

Right! No I still don't understand.

MAGENTA

OK so when *you* visualise something, Bernard, it stays in your head, doesn't it?

BERNARD

Yes.

MAGENTA

But when a person of esoteric influence pictures something, they have the option of sending it into someone else's head.

BERNARD

OK.

MAGENTA

But only if they give them permission.

(MORE)

MAGENTA (cont'd)

It's a two-way street, y'know,
there's a sort of consent element.
That's why she needs to earn the
wolf's respect.

BERNARD

With the peeing and the howling,
right. What's she going to visualise?

MAGENTA

Just anything to convince him to
cross over, I'm sure she's got some
ideas. Probably like... a wolf pack
running through a heavenly forest,
sunlight glinting through the leaves,
lovely lovely, that kind of thing,
but there's a little bit of sadness
too because one of the pack is
missing, and they yearn to be
reunited with him.

BERNARD

Ah yes. And that will convince the
wolf to cross over?

MAGENTA

That's the goal!

Lindsay HOWLS in the distance.

BERNARD

That must be Lindsay!

MAGENTA

Time for me to send her an energy
boost. Here goes... unnngh!

Magenta makes STRAINING NOISES.

BERNARD

Gosh. This is SUCH privilege to
witness.

MAGENTA

Nnngh!

HOWLS and STRAINING NOISE rise until... a FIZZ of
electricity, and the recorder breaks.

INT. MISTY MOOR RECTORY - TWO WEEKS LATER

BERNARD

What is going on, it's ya boy Bernard coming at you with another Youtube video from my studio here at mahhh...

This isn't me, is it. I'm just gonna talk normally.

So, hello listeners, Bernard here. Where were we? It's been two weeks since we last recorded at the zoo. Unfortunately, at the critical moment, my recording device blew a gasket. Seems like Magenta and Lindsay's combined energies are a force to be reckoned with! Uh oh! Double trouble!

Anyway, as such, I've been experimenting ever since, trying to make this thing esoteric-proof... think I've got it figured out. I suppose we'll see if it works when we try to shut the cosmic cat-flap tomorrow! That'll be exciting. Don't worry, I'll be bringing you all the updates from that.

Oh, you're probably wondering about the wolf. Well! Lindsay did indeed manage a full mind-meld with the old fella, and she told him where he might be able to find his pack and off he jolly well popped to the other side. We were so proud.

Unfortunately, Lindsay was, in fact, caught on the night-cam - that's a camera they use to keep a check on the animals after dark - and as such, she has been suspended from her job for unsanitary behaviour in the goat enclosure. She has to attend a few weeks of therapy before they'll consider letting her back.

(MORE)

BERNARD (cont'd)

The good news is that Lindsay has moved in to the rectory... because she can't afford the rent while on suspension. But that's pretty good actually, because it means Magenta and Lindsay have plenty of time to get their coven off the ground!

The bad news is that the third member of this coven is due to arrive this afternoon. Oh God.

Now, look, I don't wanna be a sexist cliché and be all, 'oooh, my mother-in-law, what a nightmare she is, how I dread spending time with her', but Seraphina will insist on talking about how handsome and charming Derrick was, and implying that Lindsay is Derrick's daughter and not mine even though that's literally impossible, and pretending to be hard of hearing when I talk to her, and stealing money for her bingo habit, and making observations about my weight and the state of my hairline, and telling us about her sex life in excruciating detail, and telling Magenta just how easy it is to obtain divorce papers from the internet nowadays, so I feel fairly justified in saying, 'I'm not really looking forward to this'.

Also, every time she visits, she just insists that me and Magenta move out of the master bedroom so she can have it, and there's always a fight when we tell her she can't have it, and it's so exhausting. And anyway, at the moment, the master bedroom is occupied by Mr Baby and her demon offspring so... oh! Oh...

Yes, maybe she CAN have the master bedroom. She can share with Mr Baby...

Theme tune.

End of episode.