

DOWNWIND ON THE FARM

by

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FADE IN:

1 INT. PETE BOONE'S OFFICE - DAY

1

PETE BOONE is sticking his knife in his typewriter when DIRK LOMBARDE walks in, covered in tomato sauce and beans.

DIRK LOMBARDE  
Something jammed?

PETE BOONE looks up, licking the knife.

PETE BOONE  
Yeah. Must've lost half a jar of marmalade down in here. You see, I thought I'd save time by putting the jam on the bread before toasting, but when the slices popped up, the jam launched off like the space shuttle and disappeared into the typewriter, and -

DIRK LOMBARDE  
Boone! Do you notice anything different about me?

PETE BOONE  
It's not that moustache thing again?

DIRK LOMBARDE  
No!

PETE BOONE  
Um. Well, that's my best guess.

DIRK LOMBARDE  
I'm covered in baked beans.

PETE BOONE  
You had a toaster problem too?

DIRK LOMBARDE  
Exhibit A.

DIRK hands PETE an empty can.

PETE BOONE  
There's no beans in this can.

DIRK LOMBARDE  
That's because they are all on me!

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

PETE BOONE

So, why'd you need the can for then?

DIRK LOMBARDE

You gave me this can of 'Aunty Rhonda's Baked Beans'.

PETE BOONE

Yeah. Had that lying around for so many years now. Rather glad to get rid of it actually. Seemed to be gaining girth faster than Inspector Gravel. And rumbled in much the same way-

DIRK LOMBARDE

You gave it to me.

PETE BOONE

I think we established that. More importantly, I've been reading this phone bill. It's pretty high.

DIRK LOMBARDE

I opened the can.

PETE BOONE

Well, I never told you to do that. Can't blame me there. Of course, she had a range of surprise meals - until the operation was closed by the health authorities-

DIRK LOMBARDE

It exploded. My office has baked beans stuck on the ceiling.

PETE BOONE

Well, you could give your clients plates, so that when they drop-

DIRK LOMBARDE

Boone!

PETE BOONE

Or, you should buy a can of 'Aunty Rhonda's Spaghetti' - You could probably still get one on ebay - Look under 'Dangerous, Not To Post'. You see, the strands hang down from the ceiling, making it much easier to pull off-

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: (2)

1

DIRK LOMBARDE

Arghhh!

PETE BOONE

I've got another can here if you're still hungry-

PETE pulls a can out of his desk drawer. DIRK storms out of the room. PETE looks at both cans.

2 INT. PETE BOONE'S OFFICE - LATER

2

INSPECTOR GRAVEL is watching PETE BOONE lick his typewriter.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Unusual way to clean a typewriter.

PETE BOONE

I couldn't get it all off with the knife. Coincidentally, most of the food stuck on the 'J', 'A', and 'M' keys. Freaky, huh? I've got my tongue caught twice between the 'D' and 'F' keys. I thought I'd temporarily lost my hearing. Some of the letters came off and I was afraid I'd swallow them - Probably not what's meant by 'Keys to Good Health' -

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Stop it! Stop it!

PETE BOONE

Took the words right out of my mouth. Well, early stages. Like when you get your first Scrabble tiles-

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Boone! Listen. I've have a tough day. No more of your games!

PETE BOONE

That's where you're wrong, Inspector.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Wrong?! Wrong?!

PETE BOONE

Doubly so.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

PETE BOONE (CONT'D)

Maybe not Scrabble, but a good game can ease the frustration of a day at the office. I know that Dirk Lombarde was shocked the other day when I told him about the Executive Edition of the video game. 'The Royal We.'-

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

People are disappearing at the Southern edge of West Pennant Falls.

PETE BOONE

Maybe there's a sale on at the video game store. They are most popular. And you could use the Fitness Edition-

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

They re-appear as skin and bones.

PETE BOONE

That's 'We-appear'. Magic Edition. Of course, if you overly use the Fitness Edition, you may end up losing a lot of weight. But, I can't see you getting down to skin and bones, unless you bulk buy, if you pardon the expression.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Arghhh!

PETE BOONE

That's exactly what Dirk Lombarde said. He must've got the same phone bill I got. Now, I have a poster of the Massive Toy Sale where you can get the video game. Unfortunately, it's not a Massive poster, but still-

SFX- Door closes.

PETE BOONE (CONT'D)

Wow! He was eager.

PETE BOONE again looks at the cans.

3 INT. PETE BOONE'S OFFICE - LATER

3

DIRK LOMBARDE, washed and dressed, walks back into PETE'S office.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

PETE BOONE is looking pretty proud and examining a 'Massive Toy Sale' poster, showing DIRK both sides are the same.

DIRK LOMBARDE

Okay. I'm clean again. What did you want to see me about? And, no, I don't know any massive size kids wanting massive size toys.

PETE BOONE puts the poster down.

PETE BOONE

The phone bill. Remember?

DIRK LOMBARDE

I seem to remember you using my phone anytime you're in my office. I'm certainly not paying one cent towards your bill.

PETE BOONE

No. You gave me the idea.

DIRK LOMBARDE

Oh God.

PETE BOONE

We'll never have to pay a phone bill again.

PETE BOONE holds up two cans with a string joining them to make the old schoolkid phone experiment.

DIRK LOMBARDE

I know where this is going. You are not going to drill any more holes in my wall, or my head.

PETE BOONE

This'll be just a small hole. And you can be on the same side of the wall I'm drilling this time.

DIRK LOMBARDE

Absolutely not. No more of your tin pot schemes.

PETE BOONE

Tin can scheme. I remember the experiment at school. It never worked for me then.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

DIRK LOMBARDE

Like the string, you were probably  
slack. It needed to be taut.

PETE BOONE

I don't think the teachers ever  
taught this.

DIRK LOMBARDE

The can telephone system needs  
tension.

PETE BOONE

(yelling)

Hello! Hello! Now THAT's tension!

PETE BOONE gets up, puts the cans in his suitcase.

DIRK LOMBARDE

Where are you going?

PETE BOONE

To the hardware store. I'm going  
to have to buy a lot of string,  
re, cable.

4 EXT. ROAD - DAY

4

PETE BOONE is driving 'Brownie' down the country road  
when he almost runs over BERNISE FARMER wandering in a  
daze, still holding her empty dog lead and collar . She  
is dressed as someone who has just stepped out of 'Gone  
With The Wind' or 'Rebecca'. She speaks in an accent of  
the American Deep South. PETE BOONE stops the car and  
races over to comfort her.

PETE BOONE

Bernise!

BERNISE replies as if traumatised:

BERNISE FARMER

Last night I dreamt I went to  
West Pennant Falls again.

PETE BOONE

Bernise! This is West Pennant  
Falls. The deep south end of  
West Pennant Falls, but nonetheless-

BERNISE FARMER

Oh, Peter. The horror.

BERNISE grabs and hugs PETE BOONE.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

PETE BOONE

I don't understand.

BERNISE FARMER

It's awful.

PETE BOONE

It's my best shirt.

BERNISE FARMER

I saw a dead body. Over there.  
I was walking Fifi - We took a  
short cut - across the field. We  
almost tripped over -

INSERT of BERNISE and Fifi tripping over the body.

PETE BOONE

Relax. I've been on many field  
trips. You saw a dead body. I  
have a sort of sixth sense about  
this. In my business, I deal  
with these situations all the  
time. Often, I cause them. My  
own field of expertise you might  
say.

BERNISE FARMER

The body's in that farm.

5 EXT. FARMYARD - DAY

5

PETE BOONE and BERNISE FARMER walk across the farm grounds.  
PETE is carrying his suitcase which has string trailing  
from it.

BERNISE FARMER

It seemed to be as I stood by the  
wooden gate that lead to the path,  
that lead to the dirt track, that  
lead-

PETE BOONE

To the knee bone?

BERNISE FARMER

Exactly. It's as if it's all  
happening again.

PETE BOONE

Well, it is. We are retracing  
your steps remember.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



5 CONTINUED:

5

PETE BOONE (CONT'D)

As opposed to the video game 'We-tracing' which is the finding your family tree, which doesn't seem too active to me unless yours is a weeping willow in a hurricane-

BERNISE FARMER

-Could we get back to me?

PETE BOONE

As opposed to we? Sure. Tell me more about the gate.

BERNISE FARMER

It was barred.

PETE BOONE

It wasn't a good gate?

BERNISE FARMER

It was locked.

PETE BOONE

I've done the classic locked room mystery-

BERNISE FARMER

Is this another of those video games?

PETE BOONE

You must be thinking of the 'Medical-we Challenged' Edition. But I could never get that one out of the box. Would you recognise the body if you tripped over it again?

BERNISE FARMER

So would Fifi, she attempted to dig a hole to bury-

A COOK, complete with apron and chef's hat, bounds across the yard, waving her wooden mixing spoon. The COOK's accent changes from scene to scene. Currently, she has a French accent.

COOK

Mon Dieu! You two are trespassing on private property.

PETE BOONE

And who might you be?

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

COOK

Oui! I might be the cook, might I not?

PETE BOONE

Now that's a very confusing statement to make. So, you're a We player too. If you are pretending, I must remind you that there are no We players, parts, or actors, only midgets.

PETE BOONE gets out his notepad and pen.

PETE BOONE (CONT'D)

You might have to accompany me to the station.

COOK

Qu'est-ce que c'est? Are you a policeman?

PETE BOONE

No. I'm meeting someone at the South West Falls railway station, and I've never been in these parts. What makes you think you are a cook?

COOK

The chapeau for starters.

PETE BOONE

If you were a cook, you'd say 'entree'.

The COOK begins to hit PETE BOONE with the wooden spoon.

PETE BOONE (CONT'D)

Okay! Okay!

PETE BOONE scribbles on his pad.

PETE BOONE (CONT'D)

You are the cook.

COOK

Et vous?

PETE BOONE

That's not important. Just consider us trespassers.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (3)

5

COOK

You have string hanging out of  
your valise.

PETE BOONE

Cable. I'm doing some maintenance  
on the phone lines, and offering  
great deals to new customers. If  
you pay by credit card you now  
have the choice of a password or  
can sign.

PETE BOONE does sign language.

Index finger of prime hand points at chest.

Both hands held with index fingers extended. Index fingers  
are brought together so sides touch.

Index and thumb of prime hand held so tip touch. Prime  
hand held against tip of extended index finger of secondary  
hand

Index of prime hand touches index of secondary hand.  
Secondary hand held with palm open

Extended index of prime hand held so tip touches palm of  
secondary hand

Index of prime hand touches index of secondary hand.  
Secondary hand held with palm open

PETE BOONE (CONT'D)

'I am Pete'. I learnt it from  
the Chris Den Book of Signs.  
That's not the Christian Book of  
Signs which has had the fire  
brigade up in arms because of the  
burning bushes. No the author is  
Chris Den who happens to be a  
Christian. But that is his name  
Chris Den. Not Christian. Which  
he is.

Both the COOK and BERNISE FARMER are now staring at PETE  
BOONE. There is silence.

COOK

Êtes-vous finis ?

PETE BOONE

Oh, here's a tip.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (4)

5

PETE BOONE (CONT'D)  
If you're using your password and  
signing, it's best if you cover  
your hands with your handkerchief  
so no-one sees to steal it.

Both the COOK and BERNISE FARMER are still staring at  
PETE BOONE, who now just smiles.

PETE BOONE (CONT'D)  
Continuez, s'il vous plaît

COOK  
She has no chien, re, dog.

BERNISE FARMER  
Fifi.

COOK  
Fifi has no dog.

PETE BOONE  
I'll handle this. Fifi is a dog.

The COOK slaps PETE BOONE.

COOK  
You don't call a woman a dog!

PETE BOONE  
Fifi is no woman!

The COOK continues to hit PETE BOONE.

COOK  
How dare you!

PETE BOONE  
I wish you had a We-stick!

COOK  
We have toilettes for that sort  
of thing, you disgusting man!  
What has this man been telling  
you my sweet child?

BERNISE FARMER  
He's a detective.

The COOK continued to hit PETE BOONE who is now crumpled  
in pain.

COOK  
Taking advantage of this poor sweet  
deluded creature. Mon Dieu!

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (5)

5

PETE BOONE  
I've a got a trenchcoat.

The COOK continues to hit PETE BOONE.

COOK  
I bet you have! Zut alors!

6 INT. DIRK'S OFFICE - DAY

6

DIRK LOMBARDE picks up his desk phone to find string & can attached.

DIRK LOMBARDE  
Hello?  
(pauses)  
Oh God!

7 INT. GAZEBO - DAY

7

PETE BOONE, BERNISE FARMER, and the COOK are having tea in the Gazebo. PETE is feeling sore and nervous, and he flinches whenever the COOK talks (now in a German accent)

COOK  
Es tut mir lied. Er, sorry for that misunderstanding. You will have kuchen, re, cake? Now!

PETE BOONE  
Yes. Of course. Whatever you say.

COOK  
I'm a bit on edge.

PETE BOONE  
Have you tried sitting closer to the back of the seat.  
(flinches:)  
Sorry. Just a safety tip. Don't hit me. Please.

COOK  
You say you saw a body.

PETE BOONE  
"Saw a body."  
(flinches:)  
Sorry. You didn't say "Cook say".  
Don't hit me.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

BERNISE FARMER

I took a shortcut across the barley  
and wheat fields when I came across  
the body.

PETE BOONE

"If a body meets a body comin'  
through the rye".

(flinches:)

Sorry. Don't hit me.

BERNISE FARMER

Do you think the medication will  
wear off soon?

COOK

Medikation? Hah! Battered, a  
cooking term, to within an inch  
of his life.

PETE BOONE

Glad we use metric, a millimetre  
is not as bad.

(flinches:)

Sorry. Don't hit me.

COOK

Nicht gut. Poor simpleton.

BERNISE FARMER

He's always been like that.

8 EXT. ROADSIDE - AFTERNOON

8

INSPECTOR GRAVEL looks at the telegraph pole.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Is that string connecting those  
poles?

9 EXT. FARMYARD - DAY

9

The COOK, PETE BOONE and BERNISE FARMER are looking around  
the ground. The COOK now has a Japanese accent.

COOK

Nothing here. Hai. Chop Chop!  
Must get back to kitchen! Chop!  
Chop!

The COOK departs.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

PETE BOONE

There's something suspicious about her. Obviously she likes to cook meat.

BERNISE FARMER

I didn't dream it, did I?

PETE BOONE

Like you dreamt about going to West Pennant Falls again? No. I believe you, Bernise. You're not deranged.

BERNISE FARMER hugs PETE BOONE.

BERNISE FARMER

Oh. I wish I was a woman of 26, dressed in white satin with a string of pearls.

PETE BOONE

See.

(pauses)

I might think that through a little bit more. String. Yes.

PETE BOONE grabs the string dragging from his suitcase.

BERNISE FARMER

What IS that?

PETE BOONE

If you give a person enough rope... Bernise. Let Fifi off the leash.

BERNISE FARMER

Can't you tell, I let her off to play an hour ago?

PETE BOONE

Watch where she sniffs. Check out the rest of the farm. I'm going to have a two-way conversation with our cook.

10 EXT. FARMYARD - DAY

10

The COOK is sharpening her knife, as PETE BOONE approaches. The COOK now has a Greek accent.

PETE BOONE

Was it the Highland or the David Jones Clearances that brought you out here to start a sheep farm?

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

COOK

This is not a sheep farm.

PETE BOONE

No need to be sheepish. I understand too much rain. They seized up.

COOK

Seized up? The sheep?

PETE BOONE

Sheep. Rain. Steel wool. Too much rain. Rust. Rustic life. Six degrees of separation.

COOK

My Mistress runs cattle.

PETE BOONE

Ah, yes. Pamplona again.

COOK

Cows.

PETE BOONE

I saw this ad for a foot and calf massager -

INSERT SHOT

PETE BOONE (CONT'D)

- Which I thought seemed an unusual combination... You haven't told me your name.

COOK

You haven't asked me my name.

PETE BOONE

I can see this is going to be a battle of wits.

COOK

There is string hanging out of your suitcase.

PETE BOONE opens the suitcase and takes out two cans connected by string.

PETE BOONE

I represent the Toucan Telephone Company.

(CONTINUED)



10 CONTINUED: (2)

10

COOK

I don't believe you.

PETE BOONE hands one of the cans to the COOK, and PETE demonstrates their use. Reluctantly, the COOK holds one can to her ear.

PETE BOONE

I think we should have a dialogue. I remember from television commercials, people from overseas are more comfortable when speaking on a telephone. I have a box of tissues handy. I am also a Private Detective, so you can speak freely at 25 cents a minute. Your life story madam-

PETE BOONE hands the COOK a box of tissues, which she uses continually as she breaks down telling her story.

COOK

All my life I have been shunted around from country to country. Living off scraps of metal and food. Drinking from those frozen bags at roadside service stations. When we could get it. Often there wasn't a dry ice in the house. So sad. I knew then that all I ever wanted to be was a cook in a glorious restaurant. I hitch-hiked around the world, picking up a morsel of food here, a phrase of a language there...

PETE BOONE

Yes. A friend of mine went one a cheap hotel deal to Amsterdam, wanted a room with a view, and got one with an enormous window facing the street with passers-by making rude gestures.

COOK

Are you finished? I thought you wanted to hear my story.

PETE BOONE

Please. After all, you're paying for the call. There are two kinds of people in this world. Those who talk, those who listen, and those who can count.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (3)

10

PETE BOONE (CONT'D)

I'm a listener. It's part of being a detective.

COOK

Now can I continue?

PETE BOONE

Go straight ahead. I won't interrupt. Hey, aren't they WE controllers on the table? I thought you said-

COOK

CAN I CONTINUE!

PETE BOONE

Please.

COOK

I've forgotten where I was up to.

PETE BOONE

I was telling you about Amsterdam. Actually, the same friend sent me a photo of a big furniture store chain there called the 'Piet Boon Zone'.

INSERT PHOTO

PETE BOONE (CONT'D)

I guess it started from my International Fan Club-

The COOK has put down the can, and is fuming.

PETE BOONE (CONT'D)

Hello? We seem to have been disconnected. I've heard you speak French and German and being a cook I thought you might be suffering from Quiche Lorraine.

The COOK threatens PETE BOONE with the knife.

COOK

How did you know my name? I hate my name. I tell no-one.

PETE BOONE

Lorraine's a nice name.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (4)

10

COOK

No. Quiche. They have all been against me. Only when the Mistress appointed me cook on her farm here, did I have my first permanent home. And now she's gone missing. I trust no-one else. That woman you're with...

PETE BOONE

Oh. Bernise?

The COOK bursts into rage.

COOK

You knew my name all along.

PETE BOONE

I said Bernise, not Bernaise. Oh no. Your name is Quiche Bernise?

11 EXT. FARMYARD - AFTERNOON

11

PETE BOONE is looking for BERNISE FARMER.

PETE BOONE

Cooeee!

He steps gingerly around a giant hole.

PETE BOONE (CONT'D)

That's an enormous hole Fifi has dug. Goodness knows the size of the bone she's buried.

PETE BOONE continues his search. He comes across a dam.

PETE BOONE (CONT'D)

Interesting water feature. Damn! I hope she's hasn't drowned. That'll be two bodies. I'd never hear the end of that from Dirk. Well, it's mid-summer. And these are murders. Might even make a good TV show. No. It would never work. Well, let's make hay while the sun shines and try some stability with the barn.

PETE BOONE walks into the stables. Two feet (THE BODY) are sticking out of the hay. BERNISE FARMER is standing, awestruck, and pointing at the feet.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

PETE BOONE (CONT'D)

Bernise! There you are. Why didn't you answer when I called?

BERNISE FARMER

A-a-a-

PETE BOONE

Cat got your tongue? Yes. You're right. Maybe a copy cat killer. They can be traced. Hence 'copy'.

BERNISE FARMER

How-

PETE BOONE

Yes. There is a house next door. Maybe the neighbours can help. I mean, the lady of the house has gone missing. And your body has gone missing. And Fifi... well... I can't think but feel there might be some connection...

BERNISE FARMER

In-in-

PETE BOONE

In the meantime, I must get back to work.

PETE BOONE gets up and trips over the legs of THE BODY.

PETE BOONE (CONT'D)

Good lord! Bernise! I've found the body. You guard it and don't let it out of your sight. If it moves- If it moves - well, we'll all be very surprised. I'm going to call Inspector Gravel. Don't go anywhere. Just continue to point and scream. I'll be back!

12 EXT. FARMYARD - AFTERNOON

12

PETE BOONE races up to the main house and the COOK (now with a Mexican accent)

PETE BOONE

The body! It's in the barn! I need a phone!

COOK

Si! Toucan phone company?

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

PETE BOONE

Good thinking!

PETE BOONE pulls out two cans with a short string.

PETE BOONE (CONT'D)

Mobile phone.

PETE BOONE puts one end to the COOK's ear, and starts talking through his own can.

PETE BOONE (CONT'D)

Pretty clear, eh? You'd think we were standing next to each other.

COOK

Por favor! We are standing next to each other.

PETE BOONE

So real you could touch the person speaking to you.

COOK

I'll do more than touch you, gringo.

The COOK points the knife at PETE BOONE.

COOK (CONT'D)

Go over there.

The COOK points to the other side of the yard.

PETE BOONE

Didn't bring a long enough string.

COOK

Good. Go.

PETE begins to walk away.

PETE BOONE

Where should I go?

COOK

Far enough so I can't see you.

PETE BOONE walks away.

PETE BOONE

I need a lot more string, re, cable.

PETE BOONE bumps into IGOR SITE dressed as Rhett Butler.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (2)

12

IGOR SITE

Hello.

PETE BOONE

Hello. Um. Do I know you?

IGOR SITE

You might have seen me in the movies.

PETE BOONE

You go Tuesday nights? It's not because it's half price. Fresher popcorn.

IGOR SITE

I am the owner of the next property, Tara Boom De A. I bought it from a retired comedian. I am Brett Ruttler.

PETE BOONE

I used to ride on a Red Rattler on the way to school.

IGOR SITE

Brett Ruttler.

PETE BOONE

Red Rattler. You might be getting confused with Rod Rittler.

IGOR SITE

Rod Rittler?

PETE BOONE

He was a real rotter. Rather roly poly but had the girls in raptures.

IGOR SITE

Really. A rotund fun ripper guy?

PETE BOONE

Ruptured himself at Rugby.

IGOR SITE

Before we run around the ragged rocks, weren't you going somewhere?

PETE BOONE

Bernise!

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (3)

12

IGOR SITE

That beautiful young creature in  
the barn?

PETE BOONE

Let me tell you, Mr Ruttler, people  
like you disgust me. That lady is  
at least fifty and dead.

IGOR SITE

Interesting. She's coming this  
way!

BERNISE FARMER, crying and terrified, is racing up from  
the barn towards PETE BOONE and IGOR SITE.

PETE BOONE

Bernise!

IGOR SITE

Give me fifty and dead any day.

PETE BOONE

What about the body?

IGOR SITE

She looks great.

BERNISE FARMER

I can't stand being with that  
rotting corpse any longer. I  
think she must be the missing  
owner of this farm.

PETE BOONE

I told you to guard her. She'll  
get away.

IGOR SITE

My pet. Let me comfort you.

BERNISE FARMER trembling wraps her arms around IGOR SITE,  
whilst PETE races down towards the barn.

IGOR SITE (CONT'D)

Let us walk a while. Over to the  
water...

IGOR and BERNISE walk over to the dam. BERNISE struggles.

BERNISE FARMER

Don't hold me like that!

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (4)

12

IGOR SITE

Bernise. We've known each other for thirty maybe forty seconds. And in that time, I know - look at me Bernise, I know that I love you. I loved you more than love can possibly be love. I loved you even before I first saw you. If I was Solomon and cut you in half, I'd love both halves equally. The half I had and the half I'd not. I wouldn't be half-hearted. If I was a magician and sawed you in half, I'd see that saw-

BERNISE FARMER

Stop! I don't even know your name.

IGOR SITE

Brett Ashley Wilkes Booth Ruttler.

IGOR SITE gets down on one knee.

IGOR SITE (CONT'D)

Bernise. You can have everything I own. My Manor. My cattle. Forget any water restrictions, look at property!

BERNISE FARMER

Frankly, I don't like your manner. I'm not bonded to your stock. And as for your water, frankly, I don't give a dam!

BERNISE FARMER turns on her heels and marches off towards the COOK at the house. IGOR yells out after her:

IGOR SITE

Tomorrow is another day! Like yesterday! And today!

13 EXT. ROAD - DAY

13

INSPECTOR GRAVEL looks both ways before crossing, then almost gets run over by a pack of cyclists. He steps back onto the curb. Again, checks both ways, again steps out. This time the pack return from the other direction. One seems to have run over his shoe as INSPECTOR GRAVEL shakes his fist and finally makes it to the other side. He checks his notebook outside a large house and walks towards the door.



14 INT. GREAT WUPPO'S LOUNGE - MORNING

14

INSPECTOR GRAVEL is invited into the house by THE GREAT WUPPO (dressed as per usual: dodgy magician's hat, coat, etc). There is a table with a tablecloth and sweets near the balcony. There is a string tin can phone on the table.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

You are the Great Wuppo, I believe.

THE GREAT WUPPO

Oh my my yes.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

I am Inspector Gravel from the Pennant Falls Police. I have been informed by a Mr Peter Boone, that you are an expert in disappearances. Henceforth, you might be able to assist us in a matter of great urgency.

THE GREAT WUPPO

Great Wuppo. Not great urgency. That's my cousin, the ambulance driver.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Quite. You are familiar with the aforementioned Mr Peter Boone?

THE GREAT WUPPO

A great person.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Not a very good start. Or are you talking about your second cousin undoubtedly a big man?

THE GREAT WUPPO

You don't consider Mr Boone a great man?

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Oh, he grates all right.

THE GREAT WUPPO

You seem to have built up a sweat. Handkerchief?

THE GREAT WUPPO whisks a handkerchief from out of his hand, puts in back in his palm, then pulls out a different coloured handkerchief.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

THE GREAT WUPPO (CONT'D)

Viola!

INSPECTOR GRAVEL notices food on the table.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Mind if I join you?

THE GREAT WUPPO

You sound like my saw the lady in half act.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL sits down and starts on the cakes.

THE GREAT WUPPO (CONT'D)

Would you like me to remove the tablecloth?

Expectantly, THE GREAT WUPPO has both hands on one side of the cloth about to pull.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

No! I want to eat what's on the table. Not wear it. Sit down. Now.

THE GREAT WUPPO

Pick a card-

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

No! I'm going to ask you some questions while I eat and drink.

THE GREAT WUPPO

Cups?

INSPECTOR GRAVEL nods, and then shakes his head as THE GREAT WUPPO puts down 3 cups and hides one of the sweets under one. INSPECTOR GRAVEL correctly picks after the cup shuffle, and eats the sweet. THE GREAT WUPPO continues, and INSPECTOR GRAVEL continues to eat during the scene.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Now, my dubious source, Peter Boone tells me you are an expert in disappearances.

THE GREAT WUPPO

Can't you tell?

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

No.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (2)

14

THE GREAT WUPPO  
Wait. The blindfold.

THE GREAT WUPPO ties the blindfold over his own eyes and can't find even the cups.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
Well, obviously you and Boone know each other. So, Great Wuppo, what do you do as a living.

THE GREAT WUPPO  
I'm a magician.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
Seriously.

THE GREAT WUPPO drops his voice deeper.

THE GREAT WUPPO  
Seriously.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
And you also claim to be an expert in disappearances.

THE GREAT WUPPO  
I virtually was a truant every schoolday. You wouldn't know it would you?  
(laughs)

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
I think I've heard enough.

THE GREAT WUPPO  
Wait!

THE GREAT WUPPO removes the blindfold.

THE GREAT WUPPO (CONT'D)  
I've been doing it wrong. You're the one who should've been blindfolded.

THE GREAT WUPPO blindfolds INSPECTOR GRAVEL who begins to stumble around the room.

THE GREAT WUPPO (CONT'D)  
And it's a great way to build up your third eye.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL tries to get the blindfold off, pushing off THE GREAT WUPPO, and heading towards the balcony.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (3)

14

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
Get away from me, you fruitcake!

THE GREAT WUPPO  
You want some fruitcake?

INSPECTOR GRAVEL yells as he falls over the balcony.

15 EXT. GREAT WUPPO'S HOUSE - MORNING

15

INSPECTOR GRAVEL is lying on the ground, as THE GREAT WUPPO throws a bucket of water over him.

THE GREAT WUPPO  
Loved the teleportation act. A  
little rough, but effective.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
Arrgggh!

INSPECTOR GRAVEL struggles to his feet.

THE GREAT WUPPO  
You've spotted the hole. Would  
you like to buy one? I've got  
plenty. You can have it whole  
sale.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL, woozy, but now interested.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
Bones!

THE GREAT WUPPO  
She's here?

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
We've found skin and bones, bodies  
sucked dry, next to these holes  
all over West Pennant Falls.

THE GREAT WUPPO  
Wow! So how do you think it's  
done?

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
You must be related to Boone.

THE GREAT WUPPO  
I'm no great detective.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
Exactly.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

THE GREAT WUPPO  
Have you been down the holes?

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
Um, no.

THE GREAT WUPPO  
Why not?

INSPECTOR GRAVEL is feeling his head.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
Actually, I'm not feeling too good in the head.

THE GREAT WUPPO  
Well, that's no excuse. Go to it! Inspect!

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
My head's spinning.

THE GREAT WUPPO  
I'll get provisions.

THE GREAT WUPPO runs off, as INSPECTOR GRAVEL stumbles to his feet. He walks over to a water tank. THE GREAT WUPPO returns.

THE GREAT WUPPO (CONT'D)  
Ah. You're interested in my Houdini 2010 chamber? I've got a ladder.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
Where am I?

THE GREAT WUPPO  
Ladder or the hole? Ladder or the hole?

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
Hole!

THE GREAT WUPPO  
Here's a bag. It has a light, food, and a gun. Everything you'll need.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
I'm not going in there - or am I? I'm so confused. If I'm not back in 15 minutes call the police.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

THE GREAT WUPPO  
I thought you were the police.  
What if there's a knot in the  
phone line?

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
On your bike, man.

THE GREAT WUPPO wheels in a bike. INSPECTOR GRAVEL 'yelps  
in shock' and nervously jumps backwards into the hole.

16 INT. TUNNEL - DAY

16

INSPECTOR GRAVEL in darkness.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
Oh, my head. What on earth  
possessed, apologies to any zombies  
listening, me to go down here and  
investigate alone. I can't see a  
thing. Wait, that madman Wuppo  
gave me a light. A light globe.  
Let's see. Arrgghh! I feel  
something hairy.

The globe lights, and INSPECTOR GRAVEL finds PETE BOONE  
next to him, with a torch on a helmet.

PETE BOONE  
G'day!

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
What on earth are you doing here?

PETE BOONE  
Actually, under the earth.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
Where are we?

PETE BOONE  
We're in a hole.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
You're telling me.

PETE BOONE  
Fancy you dropping in. I see  
you've got a Wuppo light globe.  
Remember Uncle Fester-

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
Don't tell me. Underground cable?

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

PETE BOONE

Nope. Too steep to climb back up.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Only an idiot would fall into a hole.

INSERT

INSPECTOR GRAVEL (CONT'D)

So, that explains you. I reckon that friend of yours pushed me. And you have a torch on a helmet?

PETE BOONE

Found it in the tunnels. Bit small for me. Kid's size. Must've belonged to a minor. Interested in subscribing to the Toucan Telephone company?

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Why are you down here?!

PETE BOONE

I reckon if we put our minds together, we can work out this case.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

We'd still be one mind short. Evidence?

PETE BOONE

I borrowed-

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Like you borrowed the Star of Rommel?

PETE BOONE

Yeah. I borrowed the We controllers for fingerprints.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

We controllers? Fingerprints? Did you wear gloves?

PETE BOONE

No, it wasn't cold. I think it's the cook. She kept hitting me with a rolling pin.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: (2)

16

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
She's sane then. Hang on. What  
cook?

PETE BOONE  
On the farm.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
What farm?

PETE BOONE  
And then there's the bodies.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
What bodies?

PETE BOONE  
Well, it could be the same body.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
Is there one body or more than  
one body?

PETE BOONE  
Yes.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
Yes?

PETE BOONE  
But I couldn't actually show you  
them, or it.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
So there are no bodies?

PETE BOONE  
Correct.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
So you found either no bodies,  
one body or many bodies.

PETE BOONE  
Exactly.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
He gave me a gun you know.

PETE BOONE  
That Wuppo thinks of everything.  
Hey, there's a light up there.



17 EXT. CAVE - AFTERNOON

17

PETE BOONE blinks, as he walks out the cave entrance where IGOR SITE disappeared. INSPECTOR GRAVEL follows with the gun, light and cashew tin.

PETE BOONE

I'm hungry. Did The Great Wuppo give you anything?

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Bulb.

PETE BOONE

I'm not a light eater.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

A tin of cashew nuts.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL opens and snakes spring out.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL (CONT'D)

And this gun.

PETE BOONE

Come to think of it. I recognise this place. It's the cave the vampire Igor Site was entombed in.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

A gun. And there's no-one here to know. No-one. It would be just part of the killing.

PETE BOONE

Someone's dug a series of tunnels from this cave. But who would want to escape from here? It's such a beautiful place.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

This is the perfect set up.

PETE BOONE

I met up with Cleo again here. But would a wombat dig such a big hole?

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

All my troubles would disappear. Say goodbye, Mr Boone.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL shoots the gun and a 'Bang' flag drops down. GRAVEL starts to cry.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: 17

PETE BOONE  
Very funny, Inspector. But we  
have a serious situation here.  
Could it - wait a minute. There's  
something I should realise about  
this area I know so well. They  
say familiarity breeds contempt.  
Bernise is in trouble!

PETE jumps back into the cave.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
He's gone back in. I can still  
hit him with the tin, and pretend  
he was buried in a cave in.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL follows into the cave.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL (CONT'D)  
Hang on. Who's Cleo?

18 INT. TUNNEL 18

PETE BOONE races back through the tunnel.

19 INT. TUNNEL - MOMENTS LATER 19

INSPECTOR GRAVEL finds the light globe is flickering.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
Damn. The filament's fading. Is  
there someone there?

SFX: Growling.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL (CONT'D)  
Is that my stomach growling?  
Who's there? Who's making that  
sound of clawed feet?

Light globe flickers on and off as we see brief shots of  
a wombat, Inspector Gravel in pain, fighting between the  
two, and screams to black.

20 INT. TUNNEL 20

PETE BOONE races back through the tunnel. Puffing,  
running, and fighting growls are heard. PETE momentarily  
stops and thinks nothing of it, and continues.

21 EXT. IGOR SITE'S YARD - AFTERNOON 21

PETE BOONE walks up with a take-away coffee to a bedraggled  
INSPECTOR GRAVEL.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Where'd you get that?

PETE BOONE

There's a fast food place around  
the corner.

(voice over: reads:)

Why wait around for great tasting  
coffee?

C/U of cup: 'Why wait around for great tasting coffee?'

PETE BOONE sips, and an unpleasant look comes to his face.

PETE BOONE (CONT'D)

Now I know why.

PETE BOONE hands the cup to INSPECTOR GRAVEL who sips  
happily.

PETE BOONE (CONT'D)

What kept you? The body has gone  
again. I've looked everywhere.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

What kept me? I've been run over  
by cyclists, thrown off a balcony,  
dropped down a hole, attacked by  
a wombat-

PETE BOONE

Don't worry, you'll be safe with  
me. Let's see what we have here.  
It all started from a gate. As  
all intrigues are labelled '-  
gates', this could go down as  
Gate Gate. We have a missing  
body. Well, I guess we don't  
have a missing body because it's  
missing.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Where the body hell are we?

PETE BOONE

That's the 'See-Call-Australia-  
Put Another-Shrimp' We game.  
I've got the Royal We controllers  
so we could-

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Is this the farm?

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

PETE BOONE

Yes. Well, no. This is a safe haven. The next door neighbour, Brett Ruttler is the only one not involved in this murder spree.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

And you think it's the cook.

PETE BOONE

Sure. Without a doubt. You may think the evidence is circumstantial, but she wielded a knife, and threatened to circumstance me with it.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

This cook.... She's short. Apron. White chef's hat?

PETE BOONE

You know her?

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

She's lying on the ground over there. Dead.

PETE BOONE

Suspicious. With all her language skills, her death might be accidental. Then again, we still can't rule out Fifi. She can dig holes as good as any wombat.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL picks up Fifi's lead.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Are you finished? I think you should go back to selling phones.

PETE BOONE

(thinks)

Hmm. Cell phone.

IGOR SITE walks towards them.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

This is the neighbour?

IGOR SITE

Welcome to Tara Boom De A. Home of the famous Passionfruit Play.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (3)

21

IGOR SITE (CONT'D)

Other attractions include a Scottish Lake, Highland Cattle, and one of the world's greatest cricketers.

PETE BOONE

Holy Loch, stock, and Bowral! Inspector, this man is Brett Ruttler. Or is it Red Rattler? Short term memory thingy. Don't worry, I have a mind like a steel, um, magnolia. Wait a minute... You remind me of someone. The cave. The tunnel lead out of the cave to here. Inspector, this man's a vampire. Even worse, he's been having an affair with Bernise... Not Quiche Bernise, the cook, but Vernise Farmer. The cad already has a partner in Veb Site, I think. No matter. He has been sucking the blood of his victims and hiding them around the farm. How could I have missed it?

IGOR SITE

Preposterous!

PETE BOONE

Smile.

IGOR SITE

What?

PETE BOONE removes the hat etc. from IGOR SITE.

PETE BOONE

It is you.

IGOR SITE

Of course it's me. Who else would I be?

IGOR SITE smiles, revealing pointed teeth. PETE BOONE grabs his can-phone.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

What's wrong? Can't call out?

PETE BOONE

(holds up string)  
Frayed knot.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (4)

21

IGOR SITE

So, what are you going to do about it?

PETE BOONE

Correction. What are 'We' going to do about it.

PETE BOONE grabs one of the Royal We sticks, and IGOR SITE the other. Both use them to mime an epic We fight over the yard. Finally, IGOR's stick begins to wane.

IGOR SITE

Curse these second rate batteries!

PETE BOONE

Okay, we're through playing games!

IGOR SITE throws down the controller in disgust and bends out of sight reappearing in full cape, and begins to flap.

IGOR SITE

You may have won this round. I must fly!

SFX: RED SKY.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Where did this dust storm come from?

PETE BOONE gets out a dust buster from his suitcase.

PETE BOONE

I got this dustbuster 'just in case' we were hit by another one!

INSPECTOR GRAVEL and PETE BOONE watch him fly away.

PETE BOONE (CONT'D)

He was able to tunnel out from Wishy Washy's burial cave out to this farm. Mr Jinx has been broken. Everyone can live in peaces.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Living in peaces? Everyone's resting in pieces. He's probably gone off to seek more victims.

PETE BOONE

Yes, short term solutions are always the best.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (5)

21

PETE BOONE (CONT'D)

Solved another one. Left in a bit of a flap, you might say.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

How exactly did you become a detective?

PETE BOONE

I realised my gift when I used to watch Columbo and guessed the murderer in the opening minutes of the programme.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL is pulling his hair out.

PETE BOONE (CONT'D)

Yep, just like Fifi... Igor was all bite and no bark.

22 INT. VEB SITE'S HOUSE - MORNING

22

VEB SITE is filing both her nails and her teeth, when there's a knock on the door, revealing INSPECTOR GRAVEL.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

M'am. I'm from the police.

VEB SITE

Vell, about time. I have been expecting you.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

You have?

VEB SITE

I reported a missink Igor.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Missing Persons?

VEB SITE

Hah! He is not a person.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Not a zombie?

VEB SITE

Vhy, he is nothing as crass as a zombie. A blood relation.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Ven, er, when did this Igor go missink, er, missing?

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

VEB SITE

He vent do get me a present for my birthday for fangs giving and he never returned. I vink he may be seeing another.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

-Woman?

VEB SITE

Hah! Not-

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

-I don't vant, er, want to know. I'm actually here about the holes.

VEB SITE

Vot holes?

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Not pot holes. Holes in your garden. Between the potted plants.

VEB SITE

I thought you said they weren't pot.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

The plants are pot?

VEB SITE

Vot pot?

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Not pot? What?

VEB SITE

Vot? You look like you need fattening. I've run out of scream of tomato soup. Here!

VEB SITE puts a raw steak and a glass of red wine in front of INSPECTOR GRAVEL. INSPECTOR GRAVEL tries to cut the steak and sip the glass of red wine.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

You actually think I need fattening? What a wonderful woman-, per-, whatever... You're wonderful!

VEB SITE

You dink I'm vonderful?

(CONTINUED)



22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Yes.

VEB SITE pulls up a chair.

VEB SITE

Really. Vonderful.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Oh, if I only had a person like you to come home to-

INSPECTOR GRAVEL sips the wine.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL (CONT'D)

Very thick wine. What type?

VEB SITE

Type O. Better than ghou-aid. You do seem distressed-

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Nervous diseases, liver and stomach complaints, low spirits, indigestion, gout,... I have pills for them all, but they don't seem to do me any good. And you?

VEB SITE

You ask how I am? You take interest in me?

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Of course. You too seem distressed...

VEB SITE

How true. Pale skin. I have a sensitivity to sunlight you wouldn't believe. I often have extreme cravings that cannot be satisfied by food. Run down. Never get much sleep. I suffer from telekinesis, pyrokinesis, past-life memories, ESP, I experience deja vu frequently-

INSPECTOR GRAVEL

Of course. You too seem distressed...

VEB SITE holds INSPECTOR GRAVEL in her arms, and checks his neck.

23 INT. VEB SITE'S HOUSE - LATER

23

INSPECTOR GRAVEL is wiping his plate clean. VEB SITE flutters her eyelids.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
Yum. That hit the spot.

VEB SITE  
Dog?

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
No. It just was not that hot.

VEB SITE  
Some like it Vot?

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
Matthau and Curtis.

VEB SITE  
You vont it how with lemon?

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
I must get back to work. Thank you for your... company. I will see you again?

VEB SITE  
Yah! For dinner!

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
I will find your Igor.

VEB SITE  
Who?

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
Igor. The missing Igor.

VEB SITE  
Vatever! Take care and keep stuffing yourself!

24 INT. VEB SITE'S HOUSE - EVENING

24

INSPECTOR GRAVEL is sitting again at the table alongside VEB SITE. She keeps moving closer to him. Again there is a raw steak in front of him.

VEB SITE  
Hard day at the office? Like a neck-tarine?

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

VEB SITE is again examining INSPECTOR GRAVEL's neck.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
In the field actually. More steak?

VEB SITE  
The other red meat.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
Other?

VEB SITE  
Vot about a fangfurter? Dining a  
la carte horse.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
I couldn't eat a horse. I'm  
totally stuffed!

SFX: Flapping

INSPECTOR GRAVEL (CONT'D)  
What's that flapping sound? I've  
heard that before recently...

VEB SITE  
Igor was getting me a gift.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
Oh, he's back? I'm disappointed.

VEB SITE  
Don't be. He's a bat-chelor who  
works at the blood bank. He's  
joining us for dinner.

INSPECTOR GRAVEL  
But there's only a plate for one.

VEB SITE  
That's yours, my pet. Steaks  
tend to give us heart burn. And  
you were a great help to find  
him. After all, you came up with  
the lead.

VEB SITE holds up BERNISE FARMER's dog lead.

IGOR SITE  
(yelling off-camera)  
Honey, I'm home.

A top hat flies across the room into VEB's hands, as  
INSPECTOR GRAVEL turns open-mouthed and stunned.

25 INT. PETE BOONE'S OFFICE - MORNING

25

PETE BOONE is tightly wrapped up in his string and can phone system. DIRK LOMBARDE 'answers' one of the cans.

DIRK LOMBARDE  
I'm sorry. Our operator and all  
lines are tied up. Please call  
back later. Much later.

DIRK slaps his hand to indicate a job well done, and leaves the room in triumph.

PETE BOONE  
Dirk! Wait! Was that a customer.  
My first call! Help untie me!  
Dirk! Did they leave a forwarding  
barcode?

PETE BOONE struggles to free himself.