

ACT I, THE SET-UP

*Scene: The set of "Radio Station CUNL", ready to perform another weekly episode of "DEEP IN THE CLOSET... AND UNDER THE BED". This weeks episode is being performed "on site" at the Applegate Mansion. **The year is 1989.***

Set: UPSTAGE (Against a black back curtain) (Stage right) is a candleabra on a table height chest of drawers, UPSTAGE (Center) is a formal window with an elegant window treatment, and UPSTAGE (Stage left) is a table and two chairs with two place settings for an elegant dinner, an opened and half empty wine bottle and two wine glasses. One glass is still full and the other is empty, laying over on its side on the table. There is a picture hanging over the table.

FORWARD/ON STAGE are three old style microphones on stands each with a music stand in front of it to hold the scripts. The "MODERATOR'S" microphone is in the center. (If the cast is wearing body mics, the old style mics can be there strictly for the "look".)

FX: (TV Screen) The logo for Radio Station "CUNL"

HOUSE LIGHTS DOWN.

STAGE LIGHTS UP.

Enter ELDEN CRAMWELL. He checks to make sure his script is set properly.

Enter FEONA WILDER.

FEONA:

(Whimsically, to CRAMWELL)

Well?

CRAMWELL:

(Slightly giggling)

I set up all sorts of things. I don't have time to explain but, when you see some strange things happen, we both have to act scared and upset so he doesn't know it's us, messing with him.

FEONA:

(Naughty, playful)

Got it! I can't wait to see the look on his face. I have been so looking forward to being able to get even for what he did to us last month.

CRAMWELL:

Yeah! But, it's really a good thing we waited a while. He probably thinks we forgot all about it by now and he'll never suspect anything.

When the Producers came up with the idea to do these two episodes on location in this old mansion, I just knew this was our opportunity.

Did you see his reaction? I had no idea just how scared to death he is of the "paranormal".

FEONA:

(Chuckling)

Right?... He really believes in all that "ghosty" stuff.

CRAMWELL:

(Sarcastic)

I'll bet he sleeps with a light on.

FEONA turns and looks at CRAMWELL
with sudden surprise.

CRAMWELL: (CONT'D)
(Confused)

What?

FEONA:
(Timid, guilty)
I sleep with a light on.

CRAMWELL:
(Surprised)
What?... What exactly are you afraid of?

FEONA:
(Defensive, slightly
squirming)
Nothing!... It's just that... when I climb in bed at night,
and it gets really quiet... and... dark... sometimes I hear
noises and... I just like to be able to see what I know...
isn't really there.

CRAMWELL stares at FEONA in
disbelief.

Shut up!... I'm fine!... That's something very different.

FEONA looks around at the
surroundings.

This!... Doesn't bother me a bit.

CRAMWELL continues to stare at
FEONA.

STOP IT!... I SAID I'M FINE!

Shush! Here he comes.

Enter MUNCH. He tries to look
confident but, it shows that he's
very wary.

FEONA and CRAMWELL try to busy themselves with their normal "set-up" work. They acknowledge and greet each other.

CRAMWELL:

Munch?

MUNCH:

Cramwell?... Feona?...

FEONA:

Good evening, Rodney. Feeling all right?

MUNCH:

(Looking around at the surroundings, a bit unsure.)

Quite all right, thank you.

FEONA:

(Pretending concern)

I only ask because, ever since it was decided that we were going to do this show "here"... Where it "happened"... You've been acting a little... uncomfortable.

Is something bothering you? You sure you're OK?

MUNCH:

(Curt)

I'm fine!... Really!

CRAMWELL:

You're looking a little pale tonight, Munch. You're not coming down with anything, are ya?

MUNCH:

(Becoming irritated)

NO!... I'm fine!

HOUSE LIGHTS UP.

Look! The studio audience is already here.

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MUNCH: (CONT'D)

(Checking his watch)

It's time we get started.

MUNCH looks up to the booth.

We ready fellas?

FX: (TRACK 01) OFF STAGE VOICE.

"Ready!... In 3... 2... 1..."

Followed by musical call sign for "CUNL"

Pause (TRACK 01)

Munch leans into his microphone and begins speaking as if "on the air".

(As MODERATOR)

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Tonight, Radio Station "CUNL" is proud to bring you another episode of...

FX: (TRACK 02) Scary music.

Pause (TRACK 02)

Our weekly "chiller thriller"... "DEEP IN THE CLOSET... AND UNDER THE BED". This time we're broadcasting in front of a "live" audience "on location" from "The Applegate Mansion", right here in beautiful downtown Poughkeepsie, New York.

Home of Fanny Farmer Candies, Perlmutter's Furniture Store and, let's not forget... Karl Ehmer's Meat Market, specializing in...

Pause.

Pork!

HOUSE LIGHTS DOWN.

MUNCH: (CONT'D)

Why, you may ask, have we chosen to leave the perfectly good comfort of our warm studio, complete with all its lovely amenities, to come to an old, broken down mansion that, for years, no one has chosen to inhabit?

Pause.

A good question.

(Rolling his eyes)

One that I've been asking myself... frequently throughout this week, as we prepared for this "special presentation".

The answer?...

This week we will be bringing you the eerie and bloodthirsty story of what actually happened to Edgar and Priscilla Applegate within these walls... so many years ago, and why it is thought that their spirits still wander these halls after all this time.

And... What better way to reveal the truth than to go back to where it all began... and ended!... Here!... At the "Applegate Mansion".

FX: (TRACK 03) Tension music.

Pause (TRACK 03)

This is your "Moderator", Rodney Munch, along with our "all star" cast of storytellers, "Feona Wilder"...

FEONA smiles and slightly bows to the audience.

... And "Elden Cramwell"...

ELDEN smiles and slightly bows to the audience.

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MUNCH: (CONT'D)

... Standing ready to bring you this harrowing tale.

**FX: FF to (TV Screen) "APPLAUSE" sign
flashes on the TV screen.**

But, first!... A word from our sponsor!

STAGE LIGHTS OUT

**FX: FF to (TV Screen) VIDEO COMMERCIAL #1
(with audio) ending in return to "CUNL"
Logo.**

End (TV Commercial #1)

STAGE LIGHTS UP

Welcome back! You're listening to Radio Station "CUNL"!

**FX: (TRACK 04) Musical call sign for
"CUNL"**

Pause (TRACK 04)

Bringing you this weeks episode of "DEEP IN THE CLOSET... AND UNDER THE BED".

This week coming to you "live" from "The Applegate Mansion", where so many "unexplainable" things have occurred over the years prompting the questions...

STAGE LIGHTS OUT.

SPOTLIGHT ON "MUNCH".

"Just who is it that continues to haunt within these walls?"
And "What is the reason for their... unrest?"

STAGE LIGHTS UP.

SPOTLIGHT OUT.

While the lights were out, CRAMWELL has quickly wrapped a string around the front of his microphone stand. One end is attached to the handkerchief that he has in his suit coat breast pocket and the other end is in his right hand.

When the lights come up, CRAMWELL clears his throat, causing MUNCH to look toward CRAMWELL. CRAMWELL pulls the string, which pulls the handkerchief out of his pocket. CRAMWELL then looks at MUNCH as if surprised and shocked.

It is an obvious lame attempt and MUNCH looks at CRAMWELL, shaking his head and rolling his eyes in disgust.

FEONA looks at CRAMWELL with disappointment. She expected something much more effective.

CRAMWELL, realizing it didn't work, just shirks back, defeated.

MUNCH: (CONT'D)

(Back to his microphone, rolling his eyes, As MODERATOR, in a more sinister voice)

And now?... To our story!

Pause.

FX: (TRACK 05) Crack of thunder with the sound of an ongoing wind storm.

STAGE LIGHTS FLASH.

END LIGHTS FLASHING.

Fade out and Pause (TRACK 05)

MUNCH: (CONT'D)

(In a deep and sinister voice)

It was a dark and stormy night! Not fit for man nor beast!

We're no longer in the year **1989**. We're going back to **1938**. The place?... "The Applegate Mansion" in Poukeepsie, New York! And...

Pause.

Murder is afoot!

FX: FF to (TRACK 06) Another crack of thunder with the sound of an ongoing wind storm.

STAGE LIGHTS FLASH.

END LIGHTS FLASHING.

Fade out and Pause (TRACK 06)

The local constabulary has been called upon to brave the elements in order to investigate a sinister deed.

Mrs. Applegate is... dead! Poison is suspected!

FEONA lets out a timid, phoney, frightened, whimpering cry/scream)

CRAMWELL:

(As DETECTIVE BRACKEN)

Detective Bracken. Homicide. You the one who called?

MUNCH:

(As DITHERS, the Butler)

Indeed! The Master was in far too hysterical a state to do so.

CRAMWELL:

(As DETECTIVE BRACKEN)

And who are you?

MUNCH:

(As DITHERS, the Butler)

"Dithers", Sir. I am... the Butler.

CRAMWELL:

(As DETECTIVE BRACKEN)

I see. You wanna tell me what happened here?

MUNCH:

(As DITHERS, the Butler)

I'm not at all sure, Sir. I was in the kitchen with "Cook", organizing the main course for service, when I suddenly heard "Sir" call out... in terror, I might ad.

"Cook" and I ran to the dining room only to find "Madam" slumped over onto the table, unconscious. Upon further examination, it was easy to see that she, in fact, had... expired.

FX: (TRACK 07) Sinister organ music.

Pause (TRACK 07)

Of course, I immediately telephoned the police.

CRAMWELL:

(As DETECTIVE BRACKEN)

You were with the "Cook", you say.