

What the Hell?!

Episode 5: The Investigation

by

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CHARACTERS

LIFT MECHANIC

20, tall and a little overweight.
He has crazy eyes and a mental
smile. He carries his hammer and
spanner on his belt, his jeans
and t-shirt are worn.

POLICEMAN

30, tall and in the expected
clothing. He is a typical officer.

FADE IN:

INT. OLD LADY'S BEDROOM - DAY

The LIFT MECHANIC is cleaning up, with a special super soaker. It has a connected backpack, full of water. Cockroaches are running rampant on the cracked tile floor. Insect insides are all over the place. Lighting is harsh.

LIFT MECHANIC
Wow. Who knew cockroaches could
produce so much blood?

The MECHANIC shoots his light weapon on the floor and its insects.

LIFT MECHANIC
Go away!

Knocking is heard on the door, coming from a POLICEMAN, (30). The LM stops his 'tidying'.

LIFT MECHANIC
Who is it?

POLICEMAN
The police!

LIFT MECHANIC
What do you want?

POLICEMAN
What do you think?

LIFT MECHANIC
Look when I set fire to that hotel, I
was very drunk, and didn't really
realise what I was doing...

POLICEMAN
That was you??

LIFT MECHANIC
.... No.

POLICEMAN
You just admitted it.

LIFT MECHANIC
That was a joke.

POLICEMAN
I'll question you about that, later.
So do you want to have another guess
why I'm here?

The LM casually shoots some more insects.

LIFT MECHANIC

You wouldn't know about petty theft, otherwise I would have been arrested by now. That was when I was young and careless. Are you here for the bank robbery case?

POLICEMAN

... What bank would I rob, if I was you?

LIFT MECHANIC

So you don't know?

POLICEMAN

Answer my question.

LIFT MECHANIC

Er... The one two blocks away, with 'LM' graffitied everywhere...

POLICEMAN

I knew it, that was you wasn't it!... But that's not why I'm here...

The LM scratches his head.

LIFT MECHANIC

High treason?

POLICEMAN

What?

LIFT MECHANIC

In some African country somewhere.

POLICEMAN

You killed a king?

LIFT MECHANIC

No, it was the president of Burundi. That was a long time ago.

POLICEMAN

I don't believe you!

LIFT MECHANIC

Oh, good.

POLICEMAN

So... Why am I here?

LIFT MECHANIC
Can you read out a list of felonies,
please?

POLICEMAN
Murder...

LIFT MECHANIC
Does high treason count, or is that a
separate charge?

POLICEMAN
I'll look into that. Assault?

LIFT MECHANIC
Oh, definitely.

POLICEMAN
Manslaughter...

LIFT MECHANIC
You bet!

POLICEMAN
Tax evasion...

LIFT MECHANIC
(with a cheerful
rhythm)
Only on occasion!

POLICEMAN
Can I come in, please?

LIFT MECHANIC
Sure.

The MECHANIC lets in the POLICEMAN. He is seen to be tall, and in the expected clothing. His eyes are drawn to the insect gore, straight away.

POLICEMAN
... What the HELL is this?!... In all
my years of policing I have NEVER seen
a sight like this! Do people really
pay to come here?!

LIFT MECHANIC
Have you ever heard of refunds?

POLICEMAN
Er, yes...

LIFT MECHANIC
Oh. Well...

POLICEMAN
 (ignoring him)
 You advertise this place as a five
 star hotel...

LIFT MECHANIC
 (laughing)
 Yeah...

POLICEMAN
 This place wouldn't even qualify as a
 one star prison, and in a really
 shitty country.

LIFT MECHANIC
 Cool.

POLICEMAN
 (ignoring him, again)
 Even in one star hotels, turning on
 the light switch isn't a matter of
 life and death! One star hotels don't
 serve pest infestations as food!

LIFT MECHANIC
 But they are food! Beef and chicken
 supplies can't take care of the whole
 population! Care for a cockroach?

POLICEMAN
 No! And if you ask me that again, I'll
 charge you with....

LIFT MECHANIC
 What?

POLICEMAN
 Oh, that's for the judge to decide.
 No, actually, being a freak. You
 prick.

LIFT MECHANIC
 Police brutality!

The LM raises his water gun to the POLICEMAN, in self-defense.

POLICEMAN
 Stop that. And shut up. I'll tell you
 what brutality is; feeding maggots to
 people!

The LM drops his weapon and backpack on the floor, and steps
 away from them.

LIFT MECHANIC
 Oh THAT'S why you're here!

POLICEMAN

Yes. That and arson, petty theft, bank robbery, high treason, possible murder, assault, manslaughter, tax evasion, insectogenocide, and the endangerment of life!

LIFT MECHANIC

And you have evidence for all of that stuff?

POLICEMAN

It shouldn't be a problem.

LIFT MECHANIC

Does this mean I'll have quite a long sentence.

POLICEMAN

Yep.

LIFT MECHANIC

More than a few weeks?

POLICEMAN

Technically, more than a few lifetimes.

The LM goes pale and his eyes go unusually wide.

LIFT MECHANIC

Human lifetimes?

POLICEMAN

Mm-hm.

LIFT MECHANIC

Normal human lifetimes??

POLICEMAN

Afraid so!

LIFT MECHANIC

... Er... What?... Really?.... It's all over for me, then?

POLICEMAN

Yes. You'll never eat a cockroach and live in squalor, again.

LIFT MECHANIC

NOOOOOO!!!