

# LIVING WITH THE GHOST OF SAM

## Episode 6: "Missing" - Episode Guide

### ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Writer(s): David A. Burnham

Director: TBD

Running Time: 42 minutes

### EPISODE LOGLINE

When Marina St. Clair disappears after a mysterious meeting with Linda Rhodes, multiple investigations converge at Ravenscrest Mansion, forcing Derek and Nancy to confront both supernatural threats and corporate machinations while preparing for two crucial presentations.

### MAIN PLOT THREADS

Primary Plot: The discovery of Marina's submerged car triggers investigations that threaten to expose the town's supernatural nature, while Derek navigates the complex demands of the Jacobson presentation and his upcoming council performance.

#### *Secondary Plots:*

- Charles's growing obsession with the mansion's AI technology
- Nancy's investigation into Linda and the town council
- The mysterious presence in the lake connected to Earl and Pete
- Larry's discovery of foreign surveillance technology

### CHARACTER FOCUS

Primary Characters:

Derek Kinison: Balances corporate responsibilities with supernatural revelations while growing more comfortable with the mansion's abilities.

Nancy Hammond: Transitions from skeptical observer to active investigator, discovering the town council's dark nature.

#### *Supporting Characters:*

- Charles Weber: His true motives regarding the mansion's technology become increasingly concerning
- Linda Rhodes: Her supernatural nature becomes more apparent as pressure mounts

- Larry: Emerges as a crucial ally in understanding the mansion's technology
- Smithers: Demonstrates deeper connection to the mansion's consciousness
- Earl and Pete: Local characters who provide both comic relief and crucial exposition
- The Jacobson Team: Thomas, Sarah, and Michael represent corporate interest in the technology

### ***Guest Stars:***

- Chief Patterson: State Police investigator
- Officer Martinez: By-the-book detective
- Mr. Crane: Cryptic motel owner

### **SUPERNATURAL ELEMENTS**

- The presence in the lake claiming Marina's car
- Linda's transformation glimpsed through church windows
- Ghost comedian appearances in mirrors
- The mansion's AI system (AISAM) demonstrating increasing independence
- Thunder and lightning occurring despite clear skies

### **CONTINUING ARCS Story Threads Advanced:**

- The mansion's technological capabilities
- The town's supernatural nature
- Corporate interest in the AI system
- Linda's true identity
- The connection between Sam's death and Rhodes' experiments

### **RELATIONSHIP DEVELOPMENTS**

- Derek and Nancy's partnership strengthening through shared discoveries
- Derek's growing trust in Larry and Smithers
- Charles's mentor role transforming into potential antagonist
- The town's unique relationship with supernatural elements

### **LOCATION HIGHLIGHTS**

- Crescent Lake and damaged dock
- Town church with stained glass windows
- Linda's real estate office
- State Police command center
- Ravenscrest Mansion study and great room
- Oceanview Motel

### **COMEDIC ELEMENTS**

- Earl and Pete's "Jaws" homage opening
- Ghost comedian commentary in mirrors
- Smithers' deadpan humor

- Derek's continuing impressions
- The contrast between supernatural events and mundane reactions

### **PRODUCTION NOTES Special Effects Requirements:**

- Lake monster suggestions
- Linda's transformation glimpses
- Mirror reflections of deceased comedians
- Holographic presentation effects
- Thunder and lightning in clear skies

### **CRITICAL MOMENTS**

1. The discovery of Marina's car
2. Nancy witnessing Linda's transformation
3. The Jacobson presentation reveal
4. Larry's discovery of surveillance technology
5. The final lake creature tease

### **EPISODE CONNECTIONS**

*Previous:* "Digital Inheritance"

*Next: Episode 7* (To be determined)

### **DEVELOPMENT NOTES**

The episode successfully balances multiple genres while advancing both character development and larger mythology. The integration of humor with supernatural elements maintains the series' unique tone while raising stakes for future episodes.

# LIVING WITH THE GHOST OF SAM

## Episode 6 Script: "Missing"

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. LAKE DOCK - PRE-DAWN

A dense fog rolls across a small lake, obscuring the shoreline. Through the mist, an old wooden dock extends like a finger into the dark water. The weathered planks CREAK under the weight of EARL (70s, the hardware store, gas station owner) and PETE (60s, diner regular) as they set up ancient fishing gear.

A flickering lantern casts uncertain light across their faces. Pete struggles with heavy fishing line while Earl unpacks supplies from a battered tackle box.

**PETE** (stringing line) "You sure about this spot, Earl?"

**EARL** "Been catching Old Moses's granddaddy here since before you could walk. Biggest catfish you ever saw."

Pete pulls out a massive hook that looks better suited for shark fishing. Earl unwraps a package of meat that suspiciously resembles prime rib from Betty's diner.

**PETE** "Ain't that from Betty's special menu?"

**EARL** (grinning) "She won't miss it. Besides, Old Moses has expensive taste."

They secure the meat to the hook. Earl attaches the line to a sturdy dock post while Pete watches nervously.

**EARL** "Hand me that lantern, Pete. Let's see what we're doing here."

Earl tosses the baited hook far into the dark water. The splash echoes across the lake.

**PETE** "Now what?"

**EARL** "Now we wait. And whatever you do, don't-"

The line suddenly goes taut. The dock post GROANS.

**EARL** "Sweet Jesus..."

The post SPLINTERS. Before Pete can react, the section of dock beneath him tears away with a thunderous CRACK. Pete tumbles onto the broken platform as it begins moving across the lake.

**PETE** "Earl! Do something!"

**EARL** (watching helplessly) "Didn't think he'd be that hungry!", followed with a chuckle.

The dock section picks up speed. Pete loses his grip and falls into the water with a massive SPLASH.

Pete surfaces, sputtering, and begins swimming frantically toward shore.

**EARL** (now sitting in his lawn chair, opening a beer) "Better hurry back Pete before old Moses wants you for dinner as well!"

CAMERA recreates the famous JAWS swimming scene - Pete thrashing through the water as something appears to follow him. What the audience doesn't realize is the dock section is actually moving away in the opposite direction.

**EARL** "Better hurry Pete, he's right behind you!"

Pete reaches the shore, rolling onto his back, completely exhausted.

**EARL** with a smile (offering a beer) "Pete... Beer?"

TRACKING SHOT follows the dock section as it's pulled erratically across the lake. Suddenly, it CRASHES into something solid.

**PETE** (now sitting up, dripping wet, taking a drink) "Did you hear that, Earl?"

**FADE TO BLACK.**

**SMASH CUT:**

INT. CHAD'S SPORTS CAR - DAWN

CLOSE ON a phone screen showing Marina's AirTag location pulsing beside a lake. PULL BACK to reveal CHAD driving, his expression grim.

**SMASH CUT TO:**

NT. RAVENCREST MANSION STUDY - MORNING

Derek sits at his desk, surrounded by new computer monitors. The room's Victorian elegance - dark wood paneling, ornate moldings, and ancient leather-bound books - contrasts sharply with the modern technology.

Charles appears on the main screen via video conference, his sleek corporate office visible behind him. Modern art adorns pristine white walls, and San Francisco's skyline gleams through floor-to-ceiling windows. The contrast between the two settings couldn't be starker.

**DEREK** "Charles, I said two minutes ago that we need to keep the presentation simple for Jacobson's team."

**CHARLES** (adjusting his position in his ergonomic chair) "Ok, simple I get, but if we don't add more of your AI personality algorithm, it's just an old pig with fresh lipstick Sonny boy."

The camera turns towards the mirror where we see Sam sporting Al Jolson black face.

**SAM** (V.O.) Sam trying to do his best Al Jolson impression, "When there are grey skies, I don't mind the grey skies, You make them blue Sonny Boy, Friends may try to screw you, Don't let Charles try to screw you, I still have you Sonny Boy, OH... OH... OHHHHHHHHH"

**DEREK** (turns toward the mirror but the mirror just shows a normal reflection) "Did you say something Charles?"

**CHARLES** "Yes, I said we need you to up the presentation game or we will lose this deal"

**DEREK** sits processing what he thought he heard and turns back to the computer camera "Ok Charles, give me an hour and we will reconnect back here. I will see what I can pull together"

**CHARLES** "I would head up there in a heartbeat Derek but I have to many commitments here so you're on your own with this genius. We need your top game for this presentation".

**DEREK** "Ok Charles, I hear you loud and clear, see you in an hour"

Derek clicks the mouse and Charles disappears. He leans back in his chair and stares at the ceiling.

**CUT TO:**

NT. RAVENCREST MANSION STUDY - MORNING

**SMITHERS** (appearing with a sound) "Looks like you could use a break Master Kinison, I brought you a little snack. I understand from Miss Nancy that when you're stressed, you like rice crispy squares with chocolate chips."

**DEREK** (startled, then intrigued) "How did... when did Nancy tell you that?" (sitting up and turning to face Smithers) "If that tray has a rice crispy square, Smithers, you will have become my official Mansion favorite person."

**SMITHERS** (with a knowing smile) "The mansion has ways of learning about its residents, Master Kinison. Much like how I know you prefer your coffee with one sugar, milk not cream, and that you secretly practice your presentations in the mirror when Miss Nancy isn't watching."

**DEREK** (accepting a square with newfound appreciation) "You know Smithers, sometimes I wonder if you and the mansion aren't one and the same."

**SMITHERS** extends the tray as Derek grabs two large squares and settles back into his chair. "Just a parting observation Master Kinison, but sometimes our gut instinct is the best measurer of what's right and what's not."

**DEREK** (pondering Smithers' once again words of wisdom while studying the rice crispy square) "I hear you Smithers, but sometimes people just go bad. No warning, no 'Hey I am changing on you', they just go bad."

**FADE TO BLACK.**

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# ACT ONE

**FADE IN:**

INT. RAVENCREST MANSION STUDY – MORNING -ONE HOUR LATER (CONTINUING)

Derek adjusts his webcam while Charles's face fills one of the new monitors. The room's Victorian elegance contrasts with the modern technology.

**CHARLES** (through video) "The Jacobson team isn't looking for simple, Derek. They want revolutionary. Show them what that mansion of yours can really do."

**DEREK** "I'm not sure that's-"

The dumb waiter suddenly DINGS. Derek glances at it nervously.

**DEREK** "One second, Charles."

Derek opens the dumb waiter to find a fresh cup of coffee and a note: "Trust your instincts, kid. But watch the suit. - S"

**CHARLES** "Everything alright?"

**DEREK** "Just Smithers with coffee."

Through the study's mirror, we briefly see Sam adjusting his beret, but when Derek turns to look, only his own reflection remains.

**SMASH CUT TO:**

EXT. LAKE ACCESS ROAD - MORNING

Chad's sports car navigates a rough logging road, suspension protesting each bump. He checks his phone's screen again - the AirTag signal growing stronger.

The car reaches a clearing overlooking the lake. Chad exits, walking to the cliff's edge. Morning mist still clings to the water below.

He checks his phone one last time, then looks down. His expression changes as he spots something through the thinning fog.

CHAD'S POV: Marina's Range Rover, half-submerged, with the broken dock section resting against it like driftwood.

**CHAD** (barely audible) "Oh god, Marina..."

**SMASH CUT TO:**

INT. MANSION LIBRARY - MORNING

Nancy sits in her PJ's surrounded by dusty books and folders. An old map of the area covers much of the table, its edges weighted down with leather-bound volumes.

She pulls another book from a shelf, accidentally dislodging two VHS tapes that clatter to the floor. Their labels read "GRAND OPENING" and "GOVERNOR'S VISIT."

In the library's mirror, MILTON BERLE appears briefly, adjusting his tie.

**MILTON'S REFLECTION** "Kid, if you think those shows were something, wait'll you see what didn't make it to tape."

**NANCY** turns at the sound, but the mirror shows only books and dust, "Is that you Smithers? Is that you Larry? Is that you Sam?", followed by a laugh at the last statement.

**NANCY** gets up and walks over to the Mansion's retrofitted original intercom and presses the code for the Study, "Hey babe, you still in there?"

**DEREK** (The speaker lays silent, then you hear), "Ya, Charles is online with me. Working on the Jacobson stuff. How's it going with you?"

**NANCY** "Well I may head into town in a while after I finish a little bit more reading. You want to come?"

**DEREK** "No, I have to finish with Charles than I have to rehearse for tomorrow's BIG SHOE" trying his Ed Sullivan again. "Oh, but the biggest news today.... Smithers made some Rice crispy squares, and they are unbelievable".

**NANCY** "Well don't go eating them all, save a few for me and Larry. I can't have you going porky on me up here".



**DEREK** "Not a chance, I will work it all off tonight"

**NANCY** "I thought you had to rehearse".

**DEREK** "I am already a master at that".

**NANCY** "very cute, get back to work..."

Nancy returns to the books and map having been slightly rejuvenated by her chat with the love of her life.

**SMASH CUT TO:**

EXT. LAKE ACCESS ROAD - LATER MORNING

A state police cruiser pulls up beside Chad's car. TWO OFFICERS exit, approaching Chad who stands by his vehicle.

**OFFICER JENKINS** (40s, veteran cop) "Mr. Wellington?"

**CHAD** "I found her car... down there. I didn't want to contaminate the scene."

**OFFICER JENKINS** in a low voice "And dirty those designer clothes".

**OFFICER MARTINEZ** (30s, by-the-book) "How exactly did you locate the vehicle, sir, this is in the middle of nowhere?"

Chad hesitates, choosing his words carefully knowing he had secretly placed the Apple Air Tag into Marina's purse without her knowledge.

**CHAD** "Marina had mentioned buying an AirTag a few weeks back. When she disappeared, I remembered she had link it to my phone and I decide to check my phone."

The officers exchange looks again. Jenkins speaks into his radio.

**JENKINS** "Dispatch, we're going to need Fire Rescue and additional units at Crescent Lake overlook. Possible recovery operation. I will text you directions."

**SMASH CUT TO:**

INT. MANSION STUDY - LATE MORNING

Derek inserts the VHS tape marked "Helmet Test #13" into an ancient player mounted on a rolling cart pulled up beside Derek on an angle giving Charles a view. Charles watches through the video call as static fills the screen.

**CHARLES** "What exactly are we looking at?"

The static clears to reveal footage of an audience wearing strange metallic headsets. Their reactions seem unnaturally synchronized.

THROUGH THE TV SCREEN: Jonathan Rhodes stands on stage, adjusting settings on a control panel. The audience's expressions shift in perfect unison.

**DEREK** "I'm... not sure."

**CHARLES** "What's on their heads? looks like wires are coming off of it."

**DEREK** "If I had to guess, its some sort of metal cap"

**CHARLES** "Maybe it was used to measure something in a person's head, after all it was a mental hospital at one time".

**DEREK** "Or they were hosting a party for a bunch of people from Area 51", trying to shift the conversation.

The dumb waiter DINGS again. When Derek opens it, he finds a handwritten page that appears to be torn from Rhodes' journal.

CLOSE ON TEXT: "Test 13 successful. Consciousness synchronization achieved across all subjects. Ready for full implementation at next performance."

Thunder RUMBLES despite clear skies.

**FADE OUT.**

**END OF ACT ONE**

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## ACT TWO

**FADE IN:**

EXT. LAKE ACCESS ROAD - LATE MORNING

The overlook has transformed into a command center. Fire Rescue personnel prepare climbing gear while state police secure the perimeter. A helicopter circles overhead.

STATE POLICE CHIEF PATTERSON (50s, commanding presence) emerges from the chopper, immediately spotting Chad.

**PATTERSON** "Chad Wellington. Long way from Los Angeles."

**CHAD** "Chief Patterson. Thanks for coming."

They move to the cliff edge, watching rescue teams begin their descent.

**PATTERSON** "Want to tell me what really brought you here?"

Before Chad can answer, a radio CRACKLES:

**RESCUE WORKER** (V.O.) "No body in the vehicle. Interiors sealed. Cell phone in a clip on the dash, Handbag floating beside vehicle which we will bag. No sign of blood or some type of forced entry. Going to need a crane for extraction."

**CHAD** "Chief, I am going to head into town and speak to the Real Estate agent that we met with a few days ago. If Marina returned, that is the only person she knows here, unless she went back to the Ravenscrest Mansion for some unknown reason".

**PATTERSON** "I will be here for the rest of the day but most likely we will be staying here for a few days. Let me know if you hear anything of interest from the Agent and check in at a local motel and text me where you're staying!"

**SMASH CUT TO:**

INT. LINDA'S REAL ESTATE OFFICE - NOON

Linda sits behind her desk, perfectly composed despite Chad bursting in unannounced.

**CHAD** "The maid found Marina's note. She came to see you."

**LINDA** (unruffled) "Many people come to see me, Mr. Wellington. I am a real estate agent."

**CHAD** (playing the bluffing hand) "Cut the act. I know about this town. About what really happens here."

Linda's reflection in the office window briefly distorts, showing something inhuman beneath her polished exterior.

**LINDA** "Do you? Then you should know better than to threaten me Mr. Wellington."

**CHAD** "The state police are involved now Linda. Chief Patterson's, a friend of mine is running the investigation personally."

For the first time, Linda's composure cracks slightly.

**SMASH CUT TO:**

## INT. MANSION STUDY - AFTERNOON

Derek and Charles continue their presentation preparation. On screen, Charles becomes increasingly animated about the AI possibilities.

**CHARLES** "Think about it - we could revolutionize digital entertainment. I know adding a real personality to their AI agent system would seal the deal!"

Suddenly, the video feed distorts. Charles's image fragments, replaced briefly by Sam's face.

**SAM** (through static) "OH OH OHHHH! Watch yourself, cousin!"

The feed returns to normal. Charles appears not to have noticed the interruption.

In the study mirror, Larry appears in the doorway, tools in hand. His expression shifts from casual to concerned as he notices the mansion's systems activating beyond their normal parameters. He catches Derek's eye and gives a deliberate head shake, then discreetly holds up a circuit board he's removed - one bearing Jonathan Rhodes' distinctive markings.

**DEREK** (understanding Larry's warning) "Let's stick to the basics for now."

**CHARLES** "I have a meeting I have to get to, so you're on your own the rest of today. Let's reconnect at 5 pm, 15 minutes before the presentation. I am counting on you buddy."

Larry approaches Derek's desk.

**LARRY** (quietly) "Mr. K, something you should know. Found this connected to the main system. It's designed to record and transmit everything. Real sophisticated stuff... but not ours."

**DEREK** "Hang on Larry".

**DEREK** gives a wave to the camera and uses the mouse to close the connection with Charles, "See you later alligator", as he slumps back into the chair knowing he had to now start working on his presentation for the Town Council.

Derek turns towards Larry and holds out his hand suggesting Larry hand him the board. Derek takes a close look at it.

**LARRY** "See what I mean Mr. K?"

**DEREK** showing concern on his face, "Wow, this is early high tech Larry. There is no way Charles could have done that, which means we have another interested party in this place's tech. I want you to do a thorough inspection of every system in the place you are aware of and see if there are any more surprises, and Larry, mums the word on this until I can figure out what is going on".

**LARRY** "10-4 Mr. K"

Larry turns and exits the room while Derek continues to inspect the circuit board.

**DEREK** mumbling to himself “Just when I thought I was out... they pull me back in”, returning to his Pacino impression.

**ROBIN WILLIAMS** Camera pans to the Study’s Mirror where we see Robin Williams, “If Pacino bites the big one Junior, you will have to find another impression to hijack cause he will go ballistic on you... he hates impressions of him, I know I worked with the guy”.

**FADE OUT:**

**FADE IN:**

INT. MANSION LIBRARY - AFTERNOON

Nancy reviews the VHS footage of the governor's visit. The scene shows crowds wearing the "experience enhancer" headsets while Jonathan Rhodes works controls in the background.

Smithers appears silently beside her, making her jump.

**SMITHERS** "Fascinating technology. Though some might say consciousness is not meant to be... shared."

**NANCY** "What do you mean by that?"

**SMITHERS** placing a tray with a cup of tea and a couple rice crispy squares on the table, "Simply an observation, Miss Nancy. Though if you're interested in sharing, might I suggest checking behind the portrait of Dr. Blackwood?"

He exits as silently as he arrived. Nancy looks at the tray and grabs one of the squares and then moves to the portrait which has hinges and opens like a door, finding a hidden panel containing more VHS tapes and documents.

**SMASH CUT TO:**

EXT. LAKE - LATE AFTERNOON

Earl and Pete face questioning from Officer Martinez. Their stories grow increasingly outlandish

**MARTINEZ** “We received a tip that you two were seen heading towards the lake early this morning. What time did you get here?”

**EARL** very calm and polite “We got to the old dock around 7 am and did what we always do, fish”

**PETE** sounding very nervous and anxious, "Then the dock just took off! Like something was pulling it!"

**EARL** "Biggest catfish you ever saw. Or maybe it wasn't a catfish at all..."

In the lake behind them, something large creates a ripple in the water. Martinez doesn't notice, but Earl and Pete exchange knowing looks.

Through nearby car windows, we see brief reflections of Richard Pryor and George Carlin watching the scene.

**FADE OUT.**

**END OF ACT TWO**

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## **ACT THREE**

**FADE IN:**

INT. STATE POLICE COMMAND CENTER -- EARLY EVENING

Chief Patterson reviews footage recovered from Marina's phone. The screen shows Marina entering Linda's office, then static interference. When the image clears, Linda's reflection in a window appears distorted, not human-like.

**MARTINEZ** (watching) "Chief, look at this frame."

He freezes the video on Linda's reflection. The image seems to pulse with unnatural energy.

**PATTERSON** "Send this to forensics. And get me everything you can on Linda Rhodes."

**MARTINEZ** (making notes in a leather-bound notebook) "Rhodes? Her business card says--"

**PATTERSON** "I know what it says. Find out who she really is. Cross-reference every database - property records, tax files, birth certificates. Something tells me 'Linda Rhodes' hasn't always been her name."

**MARTINEZ** (studying the frozen image) "Chief, look at the timestamp. This was taken right before the phone records show her signal disappeared."

**PATTERSON** "And right before the power surge that knocked out half the town's security cameras. Get me the electrical grid reports from that night. Also, see if anyone has spotted Wellington driving around town."

Martinez nods, adding more notes. Through the command center's window, lightning FLASHES across a clear sky.

**SMASH CUT TO:**

## INT. MANSION GREAT ROOM – EARLY EVENING

Derek conducts the remote presentation, holographic displays filling the space with data visualizations. The Jacobson team appears in a video conference window - THOMAS JACOBSON (60s, CEO), SARAH CHEN (40s, Head of AI Development), and MICHAEL FOSTER (30s, Technical Director).

**DEREK** "As you can see, our AI integration allows-"

Suddenly, the holographs transform, showing impossible things: past performances, forgotten moments, glimpses of consciousness transfer experiments.

**SARAH** (leaning forward, speaking quietly to Thomas) "That signature pattern... it's unlike anything in our development pipeline."

**MICHAEL** (typing frantically on his laptop) "The processing speed alone would require quantum-level computing."

**THOMAS** (removing his glasses, studying the display intently) "Remarkable."

The Jacobson team appears mesmerized and excited, exchanging meaningful glances as the system demonstrates capabilities far beyond current technology.

**CHARLES** (via video, excited) "This is extraordinary! How are you-"

The systems return to normal. Derek notices Larry in the doorway, giving him a significant wide-eye look.

**DEREK** "Just some prototype features. Not ready for implementation, but you know what they say... always leave them wanting more..." with an added nervous laugh.

**THOMAS** (to Sarah, almost inaudible) "Whatever the cost... make this upgrade happen."

In the room's mirrors, multiple deceased comedians appear watching the presentation like critics.

The camera shifts to Charles screen view and we see a large smile take over Charles while pretending he did not overhear Thomas's comment.

**RODNEY'S REFLECTION** "I tell ya, this AI gets no respect! No respect at all!"

**JOAN RIVERS' REFLECTION** "Oh grow up! I've had software updates more exciting than this presentation!"

**DEREK** "That concludes our demonstration folks. I hope it has met your aspirational goals at Jacobson, and I will leave the next round of discussion to you and Charles. I appreciate your time and hopefully being able to continue our collaboration to make Jacobson the #1 Investment Fund in the world. Again, thank you and I must end the feed as I need to make use of the little boys' room".

As Derek clicks the mouse to close the video conference screen, he leans back in the chair and laughs to himself when he realizes how corporate he still was with such a departing speech to Jacobson and instinctively making like he was still employed there.

**SMITHERS** appearing as usual "Sounds like you hit a home run Master Kinison. I thought as a reward, you would enjoy another rice crispy square and a snifter of 30 year old port and a selection of some amazing cheeses", placing the tray on a side table.

**DEREK** "You are a mind reader as well Smithers, and I am afraid it was not just a home run, it was a grand slam in the bottom of the 9<sup>th</sup> in game seven of the World series and it travelled out of the ballpark. And that scares me!"

**SMASH CUT TO:**

NT. TOWN GENERAL STORE – LATE AFTERNOON

Nancy checks items off a handwritten list: batteries, flashlights, women's products, an old-style tape recorder. The elderly cashier eyes the supplies.

**CASHIER** "Planning some late-night reading, Mrs. Hammond?"

**NANCY** "Just stocking up. Never know when the power might go out in these old houses."

Nancy suddenly notices the Cashier is wearing a red baseball cap that reads "Make Oceanview Great Again" and makes a slight smirk as the Cashier bags her purchases with a smile.

Through the store's front window, she spots Linda exiting her office across the street, checking her watch with unusual urgency.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

Nancy exits the store, watching as Linda hurries toward the old church. The building's Gothic architecture looms against the afternoon sky, its stained glass windows catching the light like watchful eyes.

After a moment's hesitation, Nancy stashes her bags in the Tesla. As she moves toward the church, thunder RUMBLES despite clear skies.

**CUT TO:**

EXT. OLD CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

Nancy crouches in the shadows of an ancient oak tree beside an ornate stained glass window that was partially opened, watching as other council members enter the room. Through the stained glass windows, their silhouettes gather like dark birds.

**COUNCIL MEMBER** "The police involvement is unfortunate."

**LINDA** "The transformation cannot be stopped now. She was chosen."



**COUNCIL MEMBER** "And the husband?"

**LINDA** "He knows too much. He'll need to be... processed."

Through the church's stained glass, Nancy sees their shadows shift into inhuman forms. She rubs her eyes in disbelief and when she looks back, they appear normal.

**SMASH CUT TO:**

EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

Earl and Pete sit in lawn chairs by their shortened dock, drinking beer. State police search lights sweep the water in front of them.

**PETE** "You think they'll find her?"

**EARL** "Some things aren't meant to be found, Pete."

**PETE** "Like Old Moses?"

**EARL** "Old Moses is just a fish. What lives in this lake... that's something else entirely."

Something massive moves beneath the water's surface, creating waves that rock the remaining dock section.

In a nearby puddle's reflection, Sam appears wearing fishing gear.

**SAM'S REFLECTION** "OH OH OHHHH! Now that's what I call a catch and release program!"

**FADE OUT.**

**END OF ACT THREE**

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## ACT FOUR

**FADE IN:**

INT. MANSION STUDY - NIGHT

Derek reviews the presentation footage he gave to the Jacobson Team and Charles on his monitors trying to figure out what happened. The images reveal discrepancies - moments where the AI seemed to operate independently and revealing far more than Derek had intended in his canned presentation. Suddenly, all screens go dark except one.

Text appears: "We need to talk. - AISAM"

**DEREK** "Sam? Or whatever you are?"

The screens flicker to life, showing security footage of Charles talking with the head IT guy Barry at the old office. Barry and Charles are reviewing the presentation in slow motion. Then we see a closeup of Barry trying to hack the Mansions IP address.

**BARRY** "The IP originated from somewhere near the coast, but it's unlike anything I've seen. The encryption's decades ahead of current tech. It looks like the IP packet has its own encryption system wrapping the IP."

**CHARLES** "Find a way in. Whatever's powering their presentation system... I want it. If you need to hire the best hacker person you can, to help you.... Cost is not an issue! I want an update tomorrow."

**BARRY** types frantically, then frowns. "Sir, something's pushing back. It's like the system knows we're—" His screen suddenly fills with Sam's laughing face.

**AISAM** (through speakers) "He's looking for things he shouldn't find. OH OH OHHHH! And trust me, kid, some things should stay buried."

**SMASH CUT TO:**

INT. MANSION LIBRARY - NIGHT

Nancy bursts in, still breathless from her church surveillance. She finds Derek examining Rhodes' journal and looking at the open books and map on the table.

**NANCY** "Derek, you won't believe-"

Her phone RINGS - the state police chief's office.

**PATTERSON** (V.O.) "Mrs. Hammond? I got your number from the Town Council's office. My name is Chief Patterson with the State Police department. We are trying to locate the whereabouts of a Mrs. Marina St. Clair and Mr. Chad Wellington. Are they by chance there, visiting you?"

**NANCY** trying to find her composure, "I am very sorry chief, but they are not here, and I have not seen them since they left here a few days ago".

**PATTERSON** (V.O.) "Well if they should turn up there, please ask Mr. Wellington to contact me ASAP, he has my number".

**NANCY** "Certainly, I hope they're alright".

**PATTERSON** (V.O.) "Thank you for your cooperation".

Nancy turns back towards Derek with a puzzled and concerned look on her face.

**DEREK** "Who was that?"

**NANCY** "State Police, you'll never guess who's missing", shifting to a grin and raised eyebrows.

**DEREK** "Hang on, you have to tell me first what 'I won't believe' is, before you get to ask me to make a guess".

**NANCY** slowly regaining her composure, "When I was in town getting a few items, I spotted Linda in town. So, feeling a bit adventurous, I decided to tail her".

**DEREK** (expression shifting from playful to concerned) "Nancy, that was incredibly dangerous. We don't know what Linda's capable of." (moving closer) "When Charles visited, I saw something in the mansion's security logs... Linda was accessing areas that shouldn't exist."

**NANCY** "That's exactly why I followed her. Derek, something's happening in this town beyond supposed ghost comedians urban legends and incredible AI systems."

**DEREK** "What, have you become Jessica Fletcher; the hot perky version with a.." (turning on his Al Pacino impression) GREAT ASS"?

**NANCY** "very funny, but I swear that when I was peering in through the churches stain glass window, Linda and another Council person changed their appearance into something strange"

**DEREK** "Ok, you been sipping a little wine at the Diner in town Ms. Hammond".

**NANCY** "Derek, I am serious. I know it sounds bonkers but for a split second, they changed".

**DEREK** "What do you mean a split second?"

**NANCY** "I could not believe what I saw so I rubbed my eyes to make sure I wasn't imagining it".

**DEREK** "And when you looked again, they were still transformed?"

**NANCY** "Well no, they appeared normal again, but I know Derek I was not hallucinating or seeing things, I am sure there is something supernatural going on with her!"

Derek walks over to give Nancy a hug, not a hug that suggest he didn't believe her, but a hug that said, its ok, I am here.

**NANCY** "And that was not all. I think I overheard them mention something about Chad and Marina. I was a little too far away to hear it clearly, but I am sure I heard Linda say 'The transformation cannot be stopped now. She was chosen'"

Just as Derek and Nancy were in the hug, Derek's phone goes off with text. 'Mr. Kinison, due to a police matter in town, your presentation has been postponed for one more week. Very sorry for the inconvenience. Will be in touch.'

**DEREK** "Never guess who just texted me".

**NANCY** pushing Derek away showing a playful grin "Very Funny Mr. Kinison".

**DEREK** returning a grin "Linda Rhodes just texted me the presentation is postponed another week due to a police matter in town".

**NANCY** "I knew it Derek, I just knew it, something very fishy is going on in this town, this Mansion for that matter. I need to show you what I found behind the painting".

**DEREK** "Since I don't need to do any rehearsing, let's go and chill. I am sure we are both tired and I think a nice long bath after a rice crispy is what the doctor ordered for us."

**NANCY** "That actually sounds great. But I want to show you this stuff tomorrow. Oh, how did the presentation go with Charles?"

**DEREK** "We can discuss that as well tomorrow, we are officially off the clock my perfect butt girl", as Derek gives Nancy a playful pat on her butt as they both leave the library for the night. Oh, what was the phone call about that you wanted me to guess was about?"

**NANCY** "That was the State police asking me if Chad and Marina were visiting us. Seems they are both missing".

**SMASH CUT:**

**INT. OCEANVIEW MOTEL - EVENING**

**CHAD** "Looks like I need the cabin again Mr. Crane, I trust it's available?"

**MR. CRANE** "Yes, it is, how many nights will you be staying?"

**CHAD** "To be honest, I am not sure, at least one, so let's start there. Also, are there any food places that deliver?"

**MR. CRANE** "Well the diner is closed but old Mrs. Hawksbill will rustle you up a fine meal for \$10 cash and for another \$10, her son Melvin will deliver it. Want me to place a dinner order for you Mr. Wellington?"

**CHAD** "Great. And here is a little something for you", as Chad hands Mr. Crane a \$100 bill.

**MR. CRANE** "Gee whiz Mr. Wellington, that is mighty generous of you. Is Mrs. Wellington going to be joining you?", I can order two dinners, same delivery fee?"

**CHAD** "No, solo tonight, although you may have a police officer or two wanting a room tonight".

**MR. CRANE** "Ya, I heard there is some woman missing. Been a long time since we had one of those situations here".

Chad looked at Mr. Crane, smiled, grabbed his cabin key and left the office.

Through the library's windows, lightning FLASHES despite clear skies. In every mirror, deceased comedians appear to be watching like a ghostly audience.

**GEORGE CARLIN'S REFLECTION** "Ever notice how people don't really disappear? They just stop being where we expect them to be."

**SMASH CUT TO:**

INT. TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBER - NIGHT

Linda stands before the assembled council members, their faces hidden in shadow.

**LINDA** "The state police presence forces us to postpone the performance."

**COUNCIL MEMBER** "The timing is unfortunate. The energies are nearly aligned."

**LINDA** "We have contained the Wellington woman. Her husband will follow."

**COUNCIL MEMBER** "And the Kinison's'?"

**LINDA** "They are... different. The mansion has chosen them."

Thunder CRASHES. The chamber's ancient chandelier sways.

**SMASH CUT TO:**

INT. MANSION GREAT ROOM - NIGHT

Derek in his bathrobe discovers Rhodes' hidden journal entries about the headsets. Nancy watches as he reads aloud.

**DEREK** "The consciousness transfer was successful, but something else came through. Something ancient. Something that was waiting..."

The pipe organ which had been uncharacteristically quiet the past couple days suddenly begin to play Bach Toccata in D Minor. Derek and Nancy look at each other with wide eyes and raised eyebrows and grab each other's hand.

The camera angle shift revealing a mirror in the background and in the reflection, we see Sam in a tux with a black beret acting like a conductor.

**SMASH CUT TO:**

INT. STATE POLICE COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT

With the previous organ music (Bach Toccata in D Minor still playing in the background) Chief Patterson reviews the final footage from Marina's phone he received from the forensic department. The image shows her approaching the council building, then distorts violently. Marina's scream pierces the static: With the organ finishing Bach Toccata in D Minor, suddenly we hear, "No, please NOOOOOOO!"

When the image clears, the camera lies on the ground, recording empty sidewalk.

**FADE TO:**

EXT. LAKE DOCK - NIGHT (EPILOGUE)

Earl and Pete sit on their truncated dock, fishing with regular hooks with a gas lantern burning behind them drinking beer. Lightning illuminates the lake in strange pulses.

**PETE** "I know I have only been in this town a few years Earl, but I have to say, this is the weirdest stuff I have ever seen?"

**EARL** "Well Pete, this is nothing. This town use to be the hottest destination spot in the country back when the Laugh Asylum was open. Famous people from all over came here. Money flowed and people in this town got rich. Then the tragedy and death of Mr. Rhodes and then Mr. Kinison. Town died after that. Kinda feels like it may be coming back to life again!"

Something massive moves beneath the surface, creating a wave that rocks their chairs. Neither man seems surprised.

**EARL** (raising his beer) "To Old Moses."

**PETE** "To Old Moses."

In the lake's reflection, we see Sam wearing a fishing hat, raising a spectral beer in toast.

**SAM'S REFLECTION** "OH OH OHHHH! Now that's what I call a fish story!"

The water's surface breaks as something rises, but we cut away before seeing what emerges.

**FADE TO BLACK.**

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## **END OF EPISODE 6**